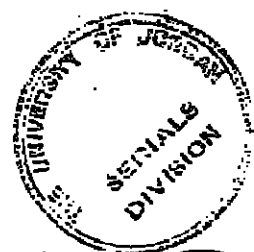


Calcutta station blast kills 4

CALCUTTA (AP) — A bomb exploded Friday at a busy railroad station in Calcutta, killing four people and injuring 12 others, officials and witnesses said. The bomb went off at Sealdah, one of the two main railroad stations in the eastern metropolis, when a police patrol stopped a man and wanted to search his bag, said railroad spokesman Gauram Banerjee. "The man became nervous and dropped the bag and it exploded," said Mr. Banerjee, who went to the station used by an estimated 800,000 travellers a day. Mr. Banerjee said only the would be bomber was killed, but witnesses and other railroad officials said they saw four mutilated bodies on the platform. There was no confirmation that the blast was linked to the series of explosions that have rocked India in the past week. Last Friday, 13 bombs exploded in Bombay, killing at least 317 people (See page 8)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى



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UNRWA condemns Israeli killing

VIENNA (Agencies) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen Friday condemned the killing of UNRWA teacher Yusuf Al Gharib who was shot and killed on Thursday when Israeli forces opened fire on a group of mourners near a wake house in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. "The death of our staff member is a result of the widespread and increased use of force that we have seen employed by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip in recent months," said Mr. Turkmen, speaking at UNRWA headquarters in Vienna. The UNRWA teacher, who was struck by a live round just above the left eyebrow, was pronounced dead on arrival by a doctor at the nearby UNRWA medical clinic. Israeli forces had surrounded part of the Rafah refugee camp during the late afternoon. Three border police vehicles then approached within 100 metres of the wake house just after some 1,500 mourners had carried out the ritual breaking of the Ramadan fast. A spotlight was directed towards the wake house and a soldier fired three times resulting in Mr. Gharib's death.

Russian envoy to push peace talks

TEL AVIV (R) — A Russian Foreign Ministry official will visit Syria, Jordan, Israel next week to push for the resumption of Middle East peace talks, Israeli foreign ministry said Friday. "Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the African and Middle East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, will come to the region on March 22 to discuss the peace talks," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Eviatar Manor said Friday. Mr. Posuvalyuk said he would focus his three-day trip on persuading the Palestinian delegation to accept a U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the talks on April 20.

Guerrillas stage raids on Israeli allies

MARIJAYOUN (R) — Guerrillas launched two separate attacks against Israeli-backed militias in South Lebanon Friday, security sources said. Israeli and allied gunners retaliated by firing dozens of shells into a string of villages north of the Jewish state's self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south, they said. There were no reports of casualties in the attacks or the shelling. In the first attack, guerrillas fired automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post on Shoumariyah hill on the edge of the 15-kilometre deep zone. A few hours later, an SLA patrol in Rshaf was targeted by a number of shells fired from outside the enclave.

U.S. Supreme Court justice retires

WASHINGTON (R) — Justice Byron White, the senior member of the U.S. Supreme Court, announced his retirement Friday, giving President Bill Clinton his first shot at reshaping the high court's conservative bent. Mr. White's retirement will take effect at the end of the court's current term, expected in June or July. Mr. White, 75, was appointed in 1962 by President John Kennedy. A legal scholar and one-time American football hero, he was widely known by his nickname of "Whizzer" White. While he was named by Mr. Kennedy, who was considered a social liberal, Mr. White surprised many liberals and officials of the Kennedy administration by shifting to the conservative wing of the nine-member highest U.S. court.

Turkey, Russia sign \$75 m arms pact

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and the Russian Federation signed a \$75 million protocol on Friday which will enable Ankara to buy arms from Moscow, Anatolia news agency said. The protocol was signed in Ankara by Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin and Russia's ambassador to Ankara, Albert Chernishev, it said. "This is a \$75 million protocol by which we will acquire arms to strengthen our gendarmerie forces," Mr. Sezgin said at the signing ceremony.

180,000 attend Aqsa prayers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Police stepped up patrols in occupied Jerusalem as more than 180,000 Muslims attended prayers at the Old City's Al Aqsa Mosque on the final Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan. For the first time since the start of the uprising against Israeli occupation five years ago, authorities did not block young Arabs from entering Arab Jerusalem for the prayers. But a controversy arose over comments by a mosque preacher. Police spokesman Shmuel Ben Rudy said police were studying whether to bring incitement charges against Sheikh Mohammad Al Jammal after reports he urged worshippers to "crucify" Palestinians who collaborate with Israel.

Police are checking the context of Sheikh Jammal's remarks, delivered in a lesson before the main sermon, Mr. Ben Rudy said. Police reported no violence. They estimated 180,000 attended. Officials at the Haram Al Sharif — the "holy sanctuary" where Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock Mosque are located — said more than 200,000 worshippers were at the noon prayers.

Traditionally, Muslims from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and from inside Israel pray at Haram Al Sharif, one of the holiest sites in Islam, on the last Friday of the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting.

Police and soldiers set up roadblocks at entrances to the city Friday. But after searching for weapons and checking identity papers, they allowed almost all to enter. The open-access policy was adopted despite a wave of violence over the past month in which seven Israelis have been

killed and 16 Palestinians have been shot to death by soldiers or Israeli settlers.

"We wanted to differentiate between the current security situation nationwide and the right of people to participate in prayer services," police chief Yehuda Wilk told the Jerusalem Post in explaining the policy. He said on Israel Radio that police and soldiers were deployed in large numbers, but he gave no exact figures. Many of the extra forces were sent to West Jerusalem to give assurance to Israelis, he said.

He noted that Jews will be going to the Old City at sundown, the start of the Sabbath.

Israel's security fears were countered by its promises to ease curbs on Arabs as a way to urge Palestinian delegates to return to Middle East peace talks stalled by the expulsion of 400 men from the occupied territories to Lebanon.

Israel Radio's service carried a commentary looking forward to an end to conflict.

"We hope there will be peace in the near future in the region and Al Aqsa will be filled not only with Palestinians but also with Arabs from the rest of the Arab World," it said.

Hundreds of buses arrived in the city Friday carrying Muslim worshippers from the occupied territories. Officials at the Haram Al Sharif said many people slept there overnight for fear they would be blocked from entering. The huge crowd was expected because Friday coincided with the 27th of Ramadan — Lailat Al Qadr when the Prophet Mohammad began to receive the Koran from God.

The day is celebrated with a 24-hour reading of the Koran.

Palestinian exiles feud over Al Quds Day rally

MARIJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — A row broke out Friday between leaders of the 396 Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon over whether to stage an anti-Israeli rally.

The dispute was the first public sign of a rift among the expellees who were banished to South Lebanon three months ago and demand Israel immediately take them back.

About 35 exiles — members or sympathisers of the Islamic Jihad movement — set ablaze Israeli and U.S. flags and chanted slogans near their tent-camp to mark Al Quds (Jerusalem) Day in response to Iran's calls for protests against the Jewish state.

The rest of the exiles, most of whom support the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, refused to participate. The dispute began when Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, a founding member of Hamas and leader of the exiles, told the men after Friday noon prayers no Al Quds demonstration would be held.

He said the exiles sent a message to Iran saying: "Jerusalem is calling on all Muslims to liberate it from the foul Zionist occupation and every Muslim must bear his responsibility."

"We have agreed to send the message to Iran and not to have a march or celebration. This is what we agreed with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards," Dr. Rantisi told the men over a loudspeaker.

Sheikh Abdullah Shami, the Islamic Jihad leader in the camp, took the microphone and said: "It is not true what Dr. Rantisi said: that there is no march and no celebration on Al Quds Day."

"What Shami says is a lie," responded Dr. Rantisi. Islamic Jihad members then raised several banners and chanted "War, war until victory" and marched to their tents in the

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(Continued on page 5)

Iraq has destroyed all its nerve gas, U.N. team says

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has completed the destruction of the 70 odd tonnes of its declared nerve gas stocks as ordered by the United Nations, a U.N. chemical weapons expert said Friday.

The burning of its mustard gas stockpiles of about 400 tonnes was also progressing steadily, said British expert Ron Manley of the U.N. special commission supervising Iraq's compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"We said there was between 70 and 75 tonnes of nerve agent. That figure was right. That has been destroyed," Mr. Manley told Reuters.

Mr. Manley and eight other U.N. chemical specialists arrived in Baghdad Sunday to report on Iraq's progress in the destruction of its once huge chemical arsenal. Their success story contrasts with difficulties encountered by other United Nations teams trying to cripple Iraq's nuclear arms programme.

"Progress is going on according to plan... it is going on well," Mr. Manley said of the nerve and mustard gas destruction. Last year the Iraqis constructed under U.N. supervision two plants — an incinerator to burn their mustard gas and a hydrolysis facility to neutralise the nerve agent.

"The hydrolysis of the bulk nerve agent has been completed... so that is done," Mr. Manley said.

What remained were a number of warheads with nerve agents whose elimination required the U.N. to develop a special technique, he said.

"That is perhaps two or three days operation to get rid of those," he said.

Mr. Manley said the U.N. had converted an Iraqi chemical weapons plant producing nerve gas to handle the destruction. "Clearly when we finish we will have to destroy the plant because it could be converted back again."

The U.N. keeps a permanent team of chemical destruction experts in Iraq.



A wounded Palestinian is being carried by his friends to an ambulance after a heavy clash on Thursday with Israeli soldiers which left one Palestinian dead and more than 40 wounded (AFP photo)

Musa sees no peace in 1993

TEL AVIV (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa was quoted Friday as saying the Arab-Israeli conflict was too complicated to expect a peace agreement this year.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv, Mr. Musa said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted a comprehensive agreement that "I settle Israel's conflicts with all Arabs, including the Palestinians."

When asked if he expected this would be the year of peace, Mr. Musa replied: "No."

"Assad is ready to give everything to Israel in return for peace, that is to say land for peace, in the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and within the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Musa said a solution must be found to the crisis over Palestinian expellees but also emphasised it should not be allowed to sink the peace talks.

"The deportee problem is an obstacle, but it is impossible to stand it in opposition to the peace talks. But I have no doubt that there is an obligation to solve the deportee problem quickly, because it creates an uncomfortable atmosphere for the peace talks."

Mr. Rabin, who has much closer relations with Washington than the previous Israeli government headed by Yitzhak Shamir, said he had established "a system of trust" with the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Rabin called for additional U.N. aid for Palestinians at a meeting Thursday with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Rabin returns after U.S. visit, says security lies in peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, returning from a visit to the United States three days early because of rising violence, said Friday Israeli "security" would come only through peace talks.

"If one seeks a real, a serious solution to terror, to threats of war, to violence, it has to be done by the peace negotiations, by agreements," he told reporters at the airport.

Since the current wave of unrest began with Mr. Rabin's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December, Israelis have killed at least 61 Palestinians and Palestinians have killed at least 10 Israelis.

The Jewish deaths triggered complaints that Mr. Rabin was not protecting Israelis. Jewish settlers in the occupied territories have staged reprisal attacks on Palestinians but Mr. Rabin said no one should take the law into his own hands.

Mr. Rabin, who has much closer relations with Washington than the previous Israeli government headed by Yitzhak Shamir, said he had established "a system of trust" with the new U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Rabin called for additional U.N. aid for Palestinians at a meeting Thursday with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Mr. Rabin told reporters he discussed increased U.N. development programmes that would help Palestinians in the occupied territories and "other issues which, at present I prefer not to bring up."

A U.N. spokesman said Dr. Ghali "conveyed... his serious concern at the situation in the occupied territories" and stressed the importance of implementing a 1990 Security Council resolution calling for the protection of civilian inhabitants.

The recent upsurge in violence, inside Israel as well as in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, prompted Mr. Rabin to shorten a planned 10-day visit and return soon after his meeting with Dr. Ghali.

While in Washington he conferred with President Clinton, senior officials and members of Congress. He told a Jewish group in New York: "I feel assured by what I've seen and heard."

Mr. Rabin said he also discussed with Dr. Ghali the fate of a

(Continued on page 5)



U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali (right) Thursday meets Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (AFP photo)

Aid convoy enters besieged eastern Bosnian enclave

SARAJEVO (AP) — A long-awaited convoy of aid arrived Friday for the desperately hungry people in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica. U.N. officials said.

The report from officials in Belgrade was confirmed by ham radio reports received in Zagreb, Croatia.

"The people all crowded around and were joyous," said John McMillan of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. However, he added, "we need to get another one in right away."

The 16 vehicles had mostly food and medical supplies, but also carried plastic sheeting for weatherproofing buildings. Earlier, Serb forces had launched an intense artillery barrage on Srebrenica. In the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, shells slammed into a crowd waiting for bread, injuring at least 16 people.

Serb forces were closing in on Srebrenica, where U.N. officials reported shells falling at the rate of one a second.

The Srebrenica convoy, halted at Mali Zvornik on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border for nine days, was allowed to proceed after the commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia agreed to a Serb demand that it not include an armed escort, UNHCR officials in Belgrade said.

The convoy left Mali Zvornik earlier, but was stopped again by an armoured personnel carrier on

the Yugoslav side of the border. It was not immediately clear why General Philippe Morillon of the U.N. agreed to the Serbs' demands, which we had earlier rejected. But U.N. officials have increasingly emphasised the desperation in Srebrenica.

UNHCR officials had been worried what would happen if the convoy had not gotten through. "If this convoy does not reach Srebrenica very soon, there won't be any point in it getting through. There won't be anyone or anything we can help," said Lyndall Sachs, UNHCR spokeswoman in Belgrade.

Gen. Morillon had gone to Mali Zvornik to negotiate its passage. Ms. Sachs said. The Serb refusal to allow convoys through and their assault on Srebrenica indicated their determination to cement their grip on eastern Bosnian territory denied them in international peace talks in New York.

Peter Kessler, UNHCR spokesman in Sarajevo, said colleagues in Srebrenica told him they heard shells landing at the rate of one per second over a 15-minute period to the northwest of the town. They recorded 300 rounds. The shelling later eased to a rate of one per minute.

Murat Effendic, a Srebrenica official now based in Sarajevo, said the bombardment came in an area near where U.S. planes dropped more aid parcels during the night.

Libya renews Lockerbie offer

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya has renewed its offer to turn over two men wanted by the United States and Britain to a neutral country for trial in the Lockerbie jetliner bombing. Arab diplomats reported Friday.

Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Al Mountasser stated the offer, repeatedly rejected by London and Washington, late Thursday to Arab foreign ministers meeting on the diplomatic standoff pitting Libya against the United States, Britain and France.

The seven Arab foreign ministers were scheduled to resume talks Friday on breaking the impasse and getting a United Nations embargo on military exports and air travel to Libya lifted.

The meeting comes as the U.N. Security Council prepares to reexamine the sanctions it imposed last April, with the possibility looming that further restrictions may be imposed.

Washington, Paris and London suspect Libya of ordering the mid-air bombings of the Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988 and a French UTA plane over Niger 10 months later.

The United States and Britain demand the Lockerbie suspects be tried in Scotland.

Marines move into Kismayu; Aided returns to conference

KISMAYU (Agencies) — A key Somali faction leader returned to peace talks Friday, apparently satisfied by the deployment of a battalion of U.S. troops to this city.

The 500 members of a U.S. quick reaction force moved into Kismayu Thursday, ordered back after fighters of Mohammad Said Hirsi, known as General Morgan, "drove supporters of Colonel Omar Jess out of the town."

Tuesday's clash prompted Mohammad Farrah Aided, one of Somalia's chief warlords and a supporter of Col. Jess, to pull out of peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Gen. Aided had said he would not return until the situation in Kismayu was "reversed."

But Farouk Mawlawi, the U.N. spokesman in the Ethiopian capital, said Friday that Gen. Aided had rejoined talks. The warlord met Friday morning with other faction leaders and U.N. officials.

Despite U.N. efforts to expand representation by including community leaders and intellectuals, Gen. Aided's walkout demonstrated how much of a grip the warlords have on the peace process.

The talks were suspended after he left Wednesday, and Committees met only informally Thursday.

With Gen. Aided back Friday, conference committees resumed discussion of issues including setting up transitional author-

Unindicted suspect in New York blast held without bail

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A man with ties to a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing was told Thursday he must remain in jail even though he is not charged with any role in the blast. The defendant, Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, 42, was named in a five-count indictment Wednesday charging him with obstruction of justice in the case.

He was arrested two weeks ago after allegedly hitting two federal agents who had gone to search his Brooklyn apartment in connection with the blast. He was also charged with carrying false passports.

While prosecutors have not charged him with taking part in the Feb. 26 bombing that killed six and injured more than 1,000, they say he is a suspect in the case.

One of those charged in the blast, Mohammad Salameh, used Mr. Gabrowny's address when he rented a van that investigators believed was used to carry the bomb.

Mr. Salameh and Nidal Ayyad, a chemical engineer, were indicted Wednesday on charges they took part in the bombing. Mr. Gabrowny was first denied bail last week on grounds he might flee the country and pose a risk to the community.

William Kunstler, Mr. Gabrowny's lawyer, argued his client should be released on bail because the charges are minor felonies and the indictment does not state he was involved in the bombing.

"They (prosecutors) got detention by telling the judge this man was involved in the World Trade Centre bombing. That is not true," Mr. Kunstler said. "I think this is a total fraud."

However, Judge John Sprizzo denied Mr. Kunstler's request, saying he saw nothing new in the indictment that gave him authority to grant bail. Mr. Kunstler said he would appeal.

Police are also seeking an Egyptian taxi driver they believe may be a key figure in the attack, reports say he has fled the country.

Mr. Gabrowny is accused of carrying false passports for Al Sayyid Nosair, who is serving time in prison in connection with the fatal shooting of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane in November 1990 in New York.

Mr. Nosair, Mr. Gabrowny's cousin, was acquitted of killing Kahane but convicted of lesser

(Continued on page 5)

Israel included in German 'Hlist'

BONN (AP) — Israel accused Germany Thursday of treating the Jewish state like a terror-sponsoring country by grouping it with countries that cannot receive German weapons without special permits.

Iraq and Libya are also on the so-called "H list," drawn up by Germany after several German companies in 1987 were found to have helped build a chemical weapons plant in Libya.

Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Navon told an influential group of American Jews visiting Bonn "it is utterly unacceptable that Israel" be kept on "a most wanted criminal list."

Mr. Navon's disclosure of the list during lunch with the Americans was the first time its existence was made public.

"Morally, it is totally and utterly invalid," Mr. Navon said.

He was supported by the Americans, a delegation representing B'nai B'rith, the world's largest Jewish organization.

Kent E. Schiner, international president of B'nai B'rith, later demanded in a meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top aide that Mr. Kohl take Israel off the list.

"We are all offended," Mr. Schiner told Frederick Bohl, Mr. Kohl's chief of staff.

Germany's "H list" contains the names of countries located in "tension areas" of the world.

According to German government officials, the "H" list is part of laws passed after the Libya scandal which bar export of weapons or dual-use technology to "tension areas" without a special government permit.

German technology has helped not only Libya, but also Iraq's programmes to build chemical and atomic weapons.

The new laws are meant to ensure there is no more proliferation of German knowhow to dangerous countries.

Mr. Bohl sought to placate the Jewish delegation, but he gave no indication Germany would change the laws.

He said even though Israel is on the list, it still gets weapons from Germany through special permits. Mr. Bohl said Germany recently approved the export of two submarines to Israel. He also pointed out that Germany gave Israel military aid during the Gulf war.

"We are not trying to put Israel

on the same level as states that sponsor terrorism. That would be a complete and total misunderstanding," said Mr. Bohl, adding the list is only a "technical and legal matter."

Mr. Bohl defended Germany's tightened export laws, saying "we don't want German weapons to be used for aggressive purposes."

Another aide to Mr. Kohl, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he did not understand the delegation's anger.

"Israel gets what it wants anyway," he said.

The American-Jewish delegation is in Germany for a five-day visit in which they are seeking reassurances about Germany's direction amid neo-Nazi violence and election gains by the far right republicans.

German officials have been telling the group that Germany's democracy is not but some of what the group has heard has increased their concern.

They learned from Mr. Navon that the sponsors of their visit — the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce — were opposed to a new German law, scheduled to take

effect May 1, which will make it illegal for German companies to participate in an Arab boycott of Israel.

Under the new German law, firms that make that promise can face heavy penalties.

Johannes von Thadden, an executive with the German industrial association, said his organisation "wants Arab countries to get rid of this boycott."

But he said unless the United States and all countries of the European Community pass the same kind of legislation, German firms will be placed at a serious disadvantage.

Ignaz Bubis, leader of Germany's Jewish community, told the American group that while unsettling, he does not think that the rise of right-wing extremism here is a serious danger.

But Mr. Bubis also said recent polls have shown that 35 per cent of all Germans have anti-Semitic "inclinations," and that surveys even show that despite his celebrity, most Germans refuse to accept that he is a German.

"The problem is, a majority of Germans don't recognise that a Jew can be a German," Mr. Bubis said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Morocco denies top police officials held

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan Justice Ministry denied Friday two top police officials had been arrested in connection with a major sex scandal for which a senior police commissioner was sentenced to death. In a statement carried by the official news agency MAP, the ministry said the judiciary had "at no time ordered the measure" of arrest. The statement was issued after rumours reported by the opposition press saying the state security department was being purged and two top officials had been arrested to be interrogated by an examining magistrate. The reports came after chief police commissioner Haj Mohammad Mustapha Tabet, 54, was sentenced to death by a Casablanca criminal court Monday after being convicted of multiple rape, deflowering virgins, abducting women and sexual violence. The charges related to sex 'orgies' involving 518 women and girls over a period of three years. The orgies were filmed by Tabet in his bachelor flat. Opposition newspapers have been calling for a purge of the security department and the resignation of senior police, government and judiciary officials linked to the scandal.

10 Turkish police wounded in bus attack

ISTANBUL (R) — Ten Turkish policemen were wounded when four suspected leftist guerrillas fired rockets at their bus in Istanbul, in a buildup of violence towards the Kurdish Nowruz spring festival, police said Friday. Police said the attack took place Thursday night in the industrial district of Bayrampasa as the bus was taking the policemen home from work. Phone callers to newspapers claimed the attack on behalf of Dev Sol, a left-wing urban guerrilla group. Dev Sol has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks on Turkish security officers, bombings and armed robberies over the past three years. In other incidents in Istanbul Thursday and Friday, bomb explosions destroyed two government-owned vehicles and damaged a bank office, police said, no-one was hurt. No-one immediately claimed responsibility. Kurds celebrate Nowruz, their new year starting on March 21, primarily in southeastern Turkey. During last year's festival about 100 Kurds, mostly civilians, died in clashes with security forces.

Former U.N. envoy leaves Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Oscar Camilion who served as U.N. special representative in Nicosia for five years, left for Argentina Friday to take up duties as defence minister, a U.N. spokesman said. A replacement has not yet been named. Mr. Camilion, 62, was appointed the U.N. secretary-general's special representative in Cyprus in October 1987. A former diplomat and journalist, he had also served as Argentina's foreign minister from 1981 to 1982. Mr. Camilion's term in Cyprus saw intensive efforts to end the division of the med-island, culminating in three rounds of U.N.-sponsored talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots in New York last year. The talks reached deadlock in November. Cyprus's new President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş will meet U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York on

March 30 to discuss the resumption of negotiations. Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktaş held their first social meeting at a farewell dinner hosted for the two by Mr. Camilion in his house in the U.N.-controlled Nicosia buffer zone last week. In an interview published in the Greek-Cypriot daily Aithia Friday, Mr. Camilion said he hoped that first meeting would help efforts to settle the 18-year dispute.

Iraq orders partial ban on alcohol sales

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has banned the serving of alcoholic drinks for part of the day Fridays, the government newspaper Al Jumhouriyah said. "The Ministry of Interior has banned the service of alcoholic drinks Fridays in all clubs, restaurants and bars," of Ibrahim Al Saleh, information officer of Interior Minister Wathab Ibrahim Al Hassan, told the newspaper. "The measure is out of respect for religious observances and the sanctity of Friday which is a holy day for Muslims," the newspaper said. The ban, in force from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., is the latest in a series of similar measures taken by the ministry. Last month it closed casinos in Baghdad's leading hotels and cut the number of night clubs in the city from 36 to 18. It also shut 600 bars in Baghdad and closed bars offering alcoholic drinks on highways.

Iran says over 420,000 Afghans return home

NICOSIA (R) — More than 420,000 Afghan refugees have returned home from Iran since Mujahadeen guerrillas took power in Kabul last April, Tehran Radio quoted an official as saying. Abdolreza Haji-Arab, deputy director of expatriates' affairs at the Iranian Interior Ministry, said 400,000 Afghans had returned on their own and another 22,051 had been repatriated under a plan coordinated by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the radio said. Iran planned to increase the number of border posts used for the Afghans' repatriation from two to six, Mr. Haji Arab added. He did not say if there had been any change in the flow of refugees' return in 10 days since Afghan Mujahadeen leaders signed a peace accord to end months of factional fighting. The UNHCR gives \$25 cash, 50 kilograms of wheat and a rug to every Afghan refugee returning home voluntarily from Iran. A UNHCR report issued last week said an estimated 300,000 Afghans who fled to Iran during the 14-year civil war in their country had returned home from Iran in 1992.

Sweets preparation injures 16 in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Sixteen people, most of them children, were injured in Syria when a gas cylinder exploded during the preparation of sweets for the feast of 'Eid Al Fitr, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. Five of those hurt in an apartment in the northern city of Aleppo were badly burned, it said. Four families had gathered to make the candy Thursday night. Syria will observe the feast marking the end of the lunar fasting month of Ramadan Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on the sighting of the moon.

Egypt battles to win hearts of Muslim population

By John West
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt's government, facing violent young Muslim militants determined to overthrow an "infidel regime," is battling to persuade the country's devout Muslim majority that religion is on its side.

Official "Islamic thought" seminars in the last month, covered by the state-controlled media, have set out the government's position in the increasingly bloody conflict in Islamic terms, denouncing the militants as deviants.

President Hosni Mubarak, summoning Religious Affairs Minister Mohammad Ali Mahjoub Tuesday, told him to step up state efforts to preach a moderate concept of Islam through officially approved clerics and religious scholars across the country.

The government has also invited selected Muslim clerics

from countries such as Lebanon, Afghanistan, Nigeria and the newly independent Central Asian republics to lend their support by attending public religious festivities for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

But as the death toll in the fight with the militants mounts exponentially, there is little sign that Egypt's pious masses identify the government's Islam as their own.

An army conscript listening to a government-sponsored seminar commented: "These are appearances. Islam is in the heart."

The government has followed a twin-track policy of curbing independent Muslim activists who raise money and mobilise while itself increasingly trying to adopt popular Muslim causes.

In a tent sponsored by the government and Al Azhar Islamic University in central Cairo for the Ramadan fast, a waiter in a bow tie served tea to privileged guests while Lebanese cleric

Mohammad Ali Jousou urged Egypt's Muslims to unite against what he called their real enemies.

"We must turn our weapons on the enemy of Islam in Palestine, Bosnia and India, not fight against ourselves. I do not want that lethal terror which we have lived in Lebanon to happen to Egypt," Mr. Jousou told about 200 people Tuesday night.

The meeting's chairman, Al Azhar's Vice-Rector Abdul Sabour Marzouq, said the same international conspiracy that destroyed Lebanon in a 15-year civil war was now at work in Egypt.

"It's bigger than just a young man shooting at a policeman. The conspiracy is greater and the danger deeper," he said.

Al Gomhouriya newspaper reported that Mr. Mubarak will hand out prizes worth 100,000 pounds (\$30,000) next week to winners of a government competition to memorise the Koran, a feat of traditional Islamic learning.

Mr. Mubarak has also ordered ministers to speed up provision of services to slum areas, promote new small businesses to fight unemployment and take action against "extremist" ideas in schools and universities.

But Egypt's stretched resources, ever diminishing against a population that grows by a million every eight months, limit the government's ability to combat the poverty and chronic social problems that fuel radical religious feelings.

Even a government decision two months ago to take direct control of the country's 30,000 mosques and appoint its own preachers in them looks ambitious.

Fundamentalists can change or create mosques of their own as fast as the government closes them down, especially in Egypt's sprawling slums where the government has a limited presence.

Gulf war soldiers said at risk from low-level radiation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exposure to low-level radiation from high-tech anti-tank weapons used for the first time in Operation Desert Storm may pose serious health risks to veterans and people who live near weapons factories, according to a report released Thursday to Congress by an environmental group.

Authors of the study, Uranium Battlegrounds Home and Abroad, said thousands of soldiers who were in the Gulf area may suffer serious long term health damage, including cancer, kidney problems and other diseases.

The National Toxics Campaign Fund of Boston said the contamination came from the more than 4,000 rounds of uranium-tipped, armour-piercing shells fired by American warplanes and tanks.

"One the whole, the military treats this radioactive ordnance as if it's conventional weaponry," said John O'Connor, founder of the grassroots organisation.

The long-term health effects, if any, are unknown. "But Mr. O'Connor said exposure to the radiation could be the 'agent orange' of the 1990s," producing serious health problems that will not be detected for a decade or more. Agent orange is a defoliant used in the Vietnam War which has since troubled the health of veterans.

"I'm not aware of any evidence that illnesses are being caused by depleted uranium," said Penta-

gon spokesman Bob Hall. Peter Esker, a spokesman for the army surgeon general, said depleted uranium produces very low levels of radiation that appear to present no health hazard.

According to a report prepared by the Department of Defence and obtained by the authors of the new study through the Freedom of Information Act, depleted uranium may present several health hazards.

Use and testing of the weapons "can lead to environmental contamination that has the potential to cause adverse impacts on human health, primarily through the water pathway," the Defence Department report said.

The authors of the environmental group's study found that radioactive particles left in the air or on the ground after the weapons are used in battle can lodge in the lungs, causing cancer, or in the bones where they increase the risk of leukemia.

Army staff Sergeant Carol Hamel Picou who served near the front lines in Iraq said she was in near-perfect health before the war, but now suffers from many unexplained illness, including failing vision, a degenerating immune system and kidney problems.

She said her doctors had not determined the cause, but said she believes exposure to radioactive contamination may be responsible.

Sheikh Jaber warns against unfettered freedom for people

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's ruler has warned that the country could not enjoy unlimited freedom while still suffering the effects of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, speaking on television for his annual message during the Holy Month of Ramadan, said both members of the newly-elected parliament and the cabinet had to understand that the country was moving through a difficult period.

"Freedom should adjust to the circumstances in any country," said the 67-year-old sheikh. Emir since December 1977. "What may be acceptable in ordinary circumstances may not be acceptable in extraordinary circumstances."

The Al Sabah family has repeatedly stressed since the February 1991 liberation from the seven-month occupation that divisive public issues would only undermine attempts to rebuild the country and would encourage Iraq to maintain its claim to the emirate.

An opposition-dominated parliament was elected in October, six years after Sheikh Jaber suspended the body in 1986 for its sharp criticism of the ruling family.

The new parliament has not shied away from controversial subjects. It is investigating the mess surrounding the invasion and has uncovered two major financial scandals in overseas in-

vestments and the government-owned oil tanker company.

Western nations fighting on Kuwait's behalf have encouraged democratic reforms in the monarchy.

The emir said that democracy was a healthy tradition in Kuwait, but should be a source of unity.

Sheikh Jaber said the greatest defence against those who envied Kuwaiti wealth, even in the days it was pearls and not oil, was the country's unity.

He said securing the release of about 800 Kuwaitis missing and believed detained in Iraq remained a top priority for the government.

Sheikh Jaber also encouraged belt-tightening by both the government — which faces a \$9 billion dollar deficit this year — and individual Kuwaitis. Kuwaitis are well known for their love of expensive cars, jewelry, clothes and houses.

"Prosperity does not mean opulence," the emir said.

Absent from the speech this year was any reference to women's rights, a subject expected to be debated in parliament during its four-year tenure. In both previous post-war speeches the emir called for expanding women's rights.

The taciturn emir, who rarely emerged in public after a 1985 assassination attempt, has been even more secluded since the invasion.



'SECURITY' CHECK: An Israeli soldier Friday checks the prayer rug of a Palestinian before allowing him into the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Arab Jerusalem (AFP photo)

U.S. hails prospect of democratic polls in Yemen

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States welcomes the prospect of democratic elections in Yemen on April 27, and will follow closely Yemen's progress in opening its political process to a multiparty system, says Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Mack.

"We're very excited by the progress that has been made... (and) in the very high levels of voter registration throughout Yemen. We can appreciate the difficulties in a far-flung country with difficult transportation to many outlying areas in communications," Mr. Mack told Sanaa journalists in a March 15 U.S. Information Agency Worldnet dialogue.

Mr. Mack also noted that many women are registered to vote. "This is a very, very desirable sign of determination of the Yemeni leadership and of the Yemeni people to see that these elections are indeed free and open to all... I hope we will see a similarly high percentage of people actually go to the polls and exercise their right to vote."

Noting that the United States has recently gone through its own electoral process, Mr. Mack said the newly elected Clinton administration has made clear its major policy issues concerning the Middle East.

"It is determined to see a continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace process," he said, and determined "to play a more active role as a partner with the Arab states, Palestinians and Israel in seeking a solution to problems that have bedeviled relations among you for so long."

A basic continuity of policies between administrations also can be seen in U.S. policy toward

Iraq, he said. "Secretary of State Warren Christopher has also made clear that the United States is going to persevere in its determination to see that Iraq complies totally with the Security Council resolutions."

The State Department official also expressed approval for "the many statements that have been made by the leaders of Yemen that they are going to abide by the enforcement of Security Council resolutions and enforcement of sanctions with regard to Iraq."

The Clinton administration, like the last administration, he said, is concerned with regional stability and with the peaceful resolution of disputes.

"The U.S. particularly applauds efforts by Yemen in recent years to reach amicable border agreements with its neighbours," Mr. Mack said, citing a "very amicable border agreement with your neighbour Oman," and discussion in process with Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Mack also stressed that the advance toward greater participation in every country will occur most successfully within the framework of its unique historical tradition, its culture and its customs.

"You're quite right in saying that you have a democratic tradition in Yemen that springs from the values you share as Muslims... I can only hope that this will be a helpful model for other countries closer in their tradition and history to Yemen than they are to the United States," he said.

He added, "The requirement that governments deal justly with their citizens, is a vitally important limitation that I believe Islam has placed on governments."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ... Les Aventures de l'Español
18:30 ... Envoyé Spécial
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Fenneteur sur
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Super Blonpines
21:00 ... Perspectives
21:30 ... Science Workshop
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature Film: "Criminal Justice"

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 ... Fajr
05:37 ... (Sunrise) Duha
11:43 ... Dhuhr
15:10 ... 'Asr
17:59 ... Maghrib
19:08 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlith, Tel. 410740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazana Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630551, Tel. 62543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 602328
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. In the evening, clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the northern parts of Jordan. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman ... 3/15

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaidah ... 726011
Dr. Mamour Maraga ... 776149
Dr. Mohammad Al Nazzari ... 693925
Dr. Khalid Maraddi ... 743300
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Ferdous pharmacy ... 778336
Al Asama pharmacy ... 670055
Naimah pharmacy ... 623472
Al Salam pharmacy ... 635738
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shameis pharmacy ... 637660
Najati pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Omar Tahmtousi ... (—)

Agaba ... 9/23
Doeiro ... 2/17
Jordan Valley ... 8/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 891228
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 843402
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 63821
Hotel Complaints ... 605800
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage ... 897467
Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010320
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ... 623101

Al Ouds Pharmacy ... (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Halasa ... (—)
Khalifah pharmacy ... 965417

Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 773111
Radio Jordan ... 774111
Water Authority ... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615
Electric Power Company ... 636381
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Haseeb Medical Centre ... 813813/22
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 64281/6
Akilich Maternity, J. Amn ... 64241/2
Jabal Attman Maternity ... 642362
Malinas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palerine, Shamsat ... 6641714
Shamsatani Hospital ... 645945
Al-Muasher Hospital ... 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali ... 6661237
Al-Abdi, Abdali ... 6641648
Italian, Al-Muhajir ... 7771012
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah ... 775111/26
Army, Marka ... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ... 66224930
Amal Hospital ... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital ... (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732
Al-Ham Modern Hospital ... (09)999900

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:15 ... Dhahran (RJ)

09:15 ... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 ... New Delhi (RJ)
09:40 ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 ... Beirut (RJ)
10:15 ... Colombo (RJ)
10:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
11:00 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:25 ... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
11:30 ... Bangkok (RJ)
11:55 ... Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 ... Larnaca (CY)
08:15 ... Beirut (ME)
12:30 ... Sanaa (YV)
20:40 ... Dubai (Em)
23:25 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 ... Beirut (RJ)
07:25 ... Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:45 ... London (RJ)
12:45 ... Larnaca (RJ)
20:40 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:50 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:00 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in lbs per kg.
Apple ... 700/550
Banana ... 700/700
Banana (Mukarnam) ... 640/640
Beans ... 1100/900
Cabbage ... 180/130
Carrot ... 200/150
Cauliflower ... 150/100
Cucumbers (large) ... 300/200
Cucumbers (small) ... 280/160
Eggplant ... 200/150
Garlic ... 200/150
Grapefruit ... 370/300
Lemon ... 300/200
Marrow (large) ... 440/350
Marrow (small) ... 440/350
Mint ... 100/100
Onion (dry) ... 210/140
Onion (green) ... 220/160
Orange ... 480/130
Pepper (hot) ... 800/600
Pepper (sweet) ... 600/400
Potato ... 220/160
Tomato ... 150/60
Spinach ... 120/60



Princess Basma tours villages in the south

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday visited four villages in Wadi Araba region, in south Jordan. Princess Basma's visit included Rahma, Reeshah, Beir Madkour and Kreitra villages.

The visit falls under the Third Annual Charity Campaign, being carried out by Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The princess met with women in the four villages and discussed their needs and those of their children.

She also discussed with them the need to prepare programmes, aimed at improving health and cultural standards of women in the region.

Princess Basma also supervised the distribution of 60-tonnes of in-kind assistance to 1,000 poor families living in these villages.

The princess was accompanied by the Aqaba district governor, the Aqaba regional authority president and heads of government departments in Aqaba district.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, embraces youth following Friday prayers at Al Hassan and Al Hussein Mosque in Sweleh. Today the Crown Prince will celebrate his 46th birthday.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King attends Friday prayer in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayer, at the Southern Military Region Command mosque in Aqaba and listened to the sermon, which focused on the tolerance of Islam and the values of the fasting month of Ramadan. Also attending the prayer were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Hashem Ben Al Hussein; the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, and Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Helayyel. On Friday also the King sent a cable to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, congratulating him on his country's National Day.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday discusses women's needs with representatives and officials of Aqaba district, during a four-village tour of south Jordan.

Conservation society sets out to eliminate vehicle fume emissions

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is embarking on short-term and long-term plans to help the country of the danger of fumes emitted by car exhausts.

RSCN President Anis Muasher told a press conference in Amman Wednesday that the increasing amounts of fumes from car exhausts, particularly those emitted by diesel oil engines, were causing a great deal of concern to the health authorities as they are the source of a real health hazard to the public.

The fumes are the result of lack of proper maintenance of vehicles and "this has to be stopped by all means," said Mr. Muasher.

In the last few years, the danger of fumes has become a reality

to public health, especially inside the cities, he added.

His warning marked the start of a nation-wide campaign launched by the RSCN to alert the public against the dangers of such fumes and to prepare for a general programme by the private and the public sectors to reduce the amount of fumes.

Should the emission of fumes be allowed to continue without proper treatment of the situation, it will be almost impossible to contain the problem later, Mr. Muasher maintained.

The RSCN had written to the Prime Minister urging him to take action and the premier has responded by circulating an official communiqué to all government departments to take appropriate measures to deal with the situation, said the RSCN president.

The main vehicles targeted in

the current campaign, he said, are the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) buses, army vehicles and other cars owned and operated by the public sector.

"Initially, we have created a special liaison committee to confer with the Public Transport Corporation and other concerned authorities to arrange for all their vehicles to undergo regular checking," Mr. Muasher said.

"PTC told us that in 200 days they can complete a maintenance programme on all their buses, and it is hoped they will do that as soon as possible."

A fixed period will be granted to all organisations and private individuals operating diesel engine vehicles to complete the maintenance necessary to control the fumes, according to Mr. Muasher.

The government will arrange

for a special workshop at the borders to test each incoming vehicle and will arrange with the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company to reduce the amount of fuel, oil in the diesel oil sold to ensure a better quality product, he said.

In a later stage, the refinery will be requested to eliminate the lead content in the oil products and special equipment will be fixed on new car exhausts coming into Jordan to complete the combustion of the fuel, Dr. Muasher explained.

"The cost of repairing cars is nothing compared with the cost of dealing with health problems," he said.

Gradually, Mr. Muasher said, each car emitting fumes will be stopped and its owner fined but not before ample time has been given to car owners to take care of the necessary repairs.

Political mergers form 2 unified fronts

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the past week, Jordan has witnessed two different cases of political parties merging into one unified front.

On Tuesday, March 16, two mergers were announced, the first was the union between Al-Ahd Party and the Jordanian National Path (JNP); the second was between three Arab nationalist parties.

Chairman of the JNP Awmi Rajoub said "after negotiations with Al-Ahd, both parties decided to unite, perceiving their goals and principles to be the same."

The JNP, formed prior to the

democratisation of Jordan in 1989, received an invitation to join the Awakening Party, but found that they were closer in principle to Al-Ahd, Mr. Rajoub said.

He said negotiations between his party and Al-Ahd had been taking place since 1989, and that was the primary reason the JNP did not apply for licensing, believing that eventually it would conglomerate into Al-Ahd, a licensed party.

Chairman of Al-Ahd Abdul Hadi Al-Majali said the approximately 220 members of the JNP will join Al-Ahd as "individuals and will not form a party within a party."

He added that negotiations are being held over the number of seats the JNP will hold in the executive committee until new elections take place.

Mr. Rajoub said "our goal is not being members of the executive committee, our goal is unity."

According to Mr. Majali, talks on unity are ongoing between national parties in Jordan. So far, he said, such talks have been "positive, but the parties need to be given time to develop."

Some parties need experience, he added.

The second merger was announced by Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Baath Party

United Assembly (ASBP/UM) Mohammed Al Zoubi who declared the ASBP/UM, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement and a group of Arab nationalists had merged into a united party.

As reported in Al Shaab Arabic daily, Mr. Zoubi said talks are ongoing between this new unit and other parties and individuals in the United Arab National Action Front to join this new party.

The reason for the merger these unlicensed parties, Mr. Zoubi said, is for these small parties to become stronger, in order to give the Arab national movement the ability to act in progress.

Jordan readies itself in case of locust threat

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In view of recent reports that desert locusts have been infesting areas on the western coast of Saudi Arabia along the Red Sea, Jordan is taking precautionary measures to ward off any possible invasion of the pest, according to Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh.

Dr. Khasawneh told the Jordan Times Friday that the ministry, acting in cooperation with other departments and the Armed Forces will launch a surveillance campaign beginning today (Saturday) along the border with Saudi Arabia and Aqaba regions.

"We are in daily contact with the Saudi authorities who have reported that the 38 swarms of locusts

which recently invaded the country are totally under control and the campaign to combat the pest was continuing unabated," said the minister.

"In fact, we have taken precautionary measures and readied our teams as far back as November 1992, when the first of these swarms appeared on Saudi territory," noted Dr. Khasawneh.

"We are not in immediate danger of any locust invasion; and the Tabouk area situated close to the southern borders of Jordan are reported by the Saudi authorities to be completely free of the pest so far," he added.

Dr. Khasawneh explained that precautionary measures were a must because any atmospheric depression can influence the movements of the locusts.

Audit Bureau reports on government violations

AMMAN (Petra) — A report by the Audit Bureau presented at a meeting of heads of government departments has revealed a significant level of embezzlement, mishandling of public funds, forged and employment practices that violate government rules and regulations.

The report, presented at the meeting which was called to discuss measures to ensure that regulations are being followed, revealed that in 1991 alone, the Audit Bureau investigated 1,114 violations in government departments and that 51 per cent of the total cases still remain outstanding. It added that some cases were unresolved because of the failure of the concerned departments to respond to the Audit Bureau's inquiries.

The bureau's secretary general, Eid Kharabsheh, who read the report to the meeting Thursday indicated that the bureau had discovered that 331 employees were appointed to government posts in violation of Civil Service Commission (CSC) regulation. The report also revealed that only 100 out of 159 capital projects were implemented during 1991.

The inaccuracy in recording revenues and expenses led to a decrease in the amount of state revenues as estimated in the 1991 fiscal budget, said the report.

It also said that a total of 150 million allocated for projects were not spent, not because of the lack of such funds, but because of technical and administrative shortcomings.

New law encourages safer building, ethical engineering

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new building codes in Jordan, issued in March 1992 by a group of engineers under directives from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, have prompted new legislation regarding the licensing, design and engineering consultation of constructions.

The Jordan Times received complaints from people who desire to build homes, but who say that because of the new legislation they are unable to afford to.

Professor of Political Science at the University of Jordan Nasser Tahboub said he "will not be able to build a home due to these changes."

He said the price for the design of one square metre has risen from one dinar to nine dinars.

This law "restricts those with limited income in the size of the design," that is, if they can build to begin with, he said.

Dr. Tahboub criticised the new legislation, saying that it gives the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) "final control" and it assumes that people have their money upfront when they build, referring to the 25 per cent consultation fee the client must pay in advance for such services.

Head of the JEA Husni Abu Ghaida refuted these charges, saying that fees for designs and consultations have not been increased.

He said the objective of this new legislation is to ensure that buildings are constructed on safe grounds with the supervision of an engineer.

Mr. Abu Ghaida maintained that fees for designing a house in the past were more than they are at present after the enactment of the new legislation. But he said, in the past, people used to pay only for the primary designs to obtain the required building li-

cence, neglecting to carry out the executive designs.

This he said was illegal.

To control such practices, he said, this new legislation cancelled the primary design requirement, and now only requires the executive design.

Fees for the executive design range from JD 1.05 to JD 2.80 per square metre, according to the type of housing and the area in which it will be built.

In the past, the cost of the primary design and the executive design combined was approximately JD 4 per square metre.

Houses less than 400 square metres need partial engineering supervision, which in the past had a fixed price of JD 500. Now, Mr. Abu Ghaida said, the price of the supervision will equal the cost of the design of that house. Thus, in some cases the price will exceed JD 500 and in others it will not.

For houses that exceed 400 square metres the cost for full-time supervision differs according to the type and size of the house and the area in which it has built.

Therefore, a deluxe house will cost JD 9 for design and consultation, while a modest house will cost JD 5 per square metre.

The fees for consultation and design do not exceed more than

five per cent of the total price of the construction. Mr. Abu Ghaida said, maintaining that they are one of the lowest in the world.

He objected, he said, to the mentality of many Jordanians who think they should pay more for a bathroom than for an engineer, who is essential in building a safe house.

Before the enactment of the new legislation, Mr. Abu Ghaida said, there were engineering offices who fraudulently signed design plans and supervision papers without proper follow up.

These offices signed the documents for home-buyers, at low costs, in order to obtain a building licence, he added.

This practice, he maintained, resulted in many buildings with structural problems, adding that "every week," he receives one or two complaints about structural problems in buildings.

Mr. Abu Ghaida said the new law allows the JEA to control the process and to check that the engineering offices are actually supervising the constructions they said they would.

Most engineering firms are pleased with the new legislation, saying that it will improve the standard of the designs and will

enable reputable engineering offices to compete with unethical offices, who charged only their signature.

But they said the legislation is some drawbacks.

First, the process is long and bureaucratic.

Second, the small engineering firms will find it difficult to pay salaries for the first couple of months because the consultant fees are paid by the client to JEA which will in turn pay engineering office in charge at 90 days.

In the meantime, the engineer are paying for the office out of their own pocket.

This, they say, benefits engineering "sharks."

Third, a loop-hole exists in law, because some unethical engineers will in an indirect return part of the money to client without the knowledge of the engineering association and turn will not supervise the construction as they should.

A committee was formed to amend the law in order to benefit the engineering firms.

Still, for the most part, engineers are happy with the legislation, believing that it will improve the level of engineering in Jordan.

'Death of Thebes' returns to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — For those of you who were not lucky enough to see "The Death of Thebes" in Casablanca in September, or to be invited to December's special performance in Jordan, the play will open at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) on March 27 for an initial run through April 3.

But if last year's audience responses are any indication of things to come, "Thebes" will probably play longer and outside of Amman as well.

The story centres on the city of Thebes whose citizens have been made blind by the gods, until the return from exile of Noor Al Oyoun, a sighted prince who gives the people back their vision.

Meanwhile, the play's development of themes of unrest, chaos and failure act as a reflection of the modern day Middle East, but not without a hopeful element.

The antics of the people of Thebes are at the same time tragic and funny; the key to the evenings entertainment.

In "The Death of Thebes," first staged at the 5th International University Theatre Festival in Casablanca last year, Al Fawanees theatre group successfully and artistically concluded their first decade of performing.

Written and directed by Nader Omran, the play stars Mohammad Al Kabbani, Suhair Fahd, Muhtasib Aref, Zein Ghanma, Amer Al Khuffash, and Habis Hussein.

The musical score was written and arranged by Khuloud Al

Resheq, who combines sounds from the Arab and Western worlds into a contemporary theme.

In Amman, "Thebes" played for a one-night, invitation-only, special performance in honour of the 18th Conference of the Union of Arab Writers and Intellectuals.

Turnout for the performance was so overwhelming that the Royal Cultural Centre was forced to tell late-comers that there was only standing room left. But that seemed to deter no one.

A typical viewer comment was that of Khaldoun Al Husari who "found 'Thebes' delightful." Dr. Husari said he "was looking forward to the Fawanees's next production."

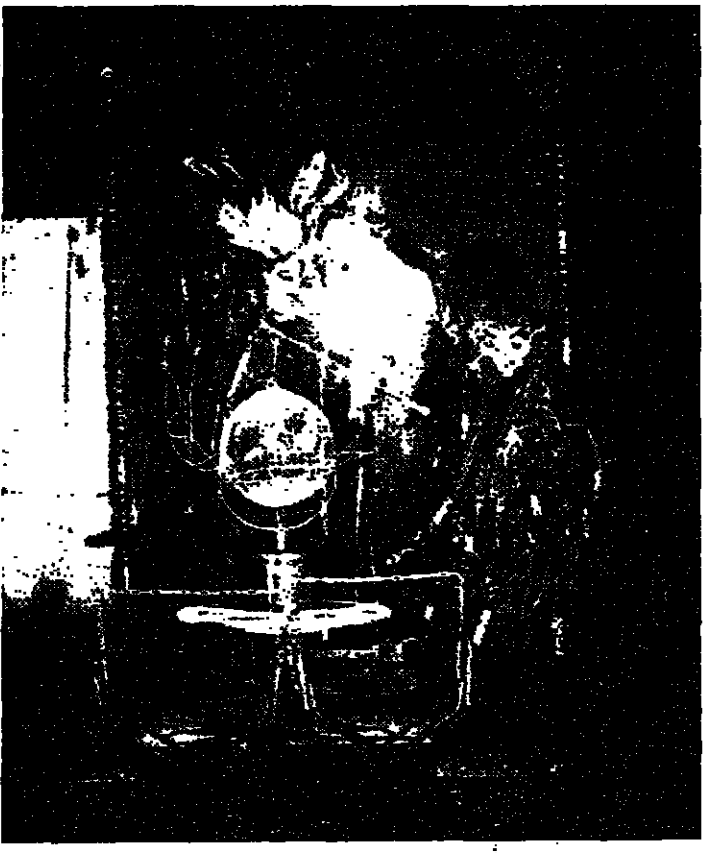
The foreign community also attended in large numbers.

According to Director of Programmes at the American Cultural Centre Katherine Van de Vate, "Thebes" was "strikingly original."

"One of the most compelling plays I have seen in the Arab World," added Ms. Van de Vate. Al Fawanees avoid propaganda and send a message that is at the same time serious and thoroughly enjoyable.

Last year, the group staged "Viva Gigamesh," another major production with satirical elements, placing it in a class by itself.

But with "Thebes," Al Fawanees have gone beyond "Gigamesh" in a production that is even more accessible while remaining universal in theme and



A scene from "The Death of Thebes"

international standard.

What next? Al Fawanees are planning a new production for this summer, with yet another approach to theatre which promises to be simultaneously fun and thoughtful.

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Twin messages for Rabin

THE TWO messages that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin received and was trying to decipher on his way back to Israel following his U.S. trip should be strong enough to make him change both his strategy and tactics in the Middle East peace process.

The first message, which is not exactly new, is that the Palestinians have had enough of Israel's "benign" occupation and that they are prepared to go to new lengths in resisting their occupiers.

The second message came of course from Syria. Contrary to Rabin's strategy of achieving a separate deal with Damascus, President Hafez Al Assad made it clear that Syria wants comprehensive peace "on all the fronts."

The ever-mounting Palestinian violence in the occupied territories is not meant to terrorise the Israelis as Israeli and American leaders want the world to believe. The Palestinians, despairing at the prolonged occupation and continued repression by the Israelis as well as the staggering pace of the peace process, have reached a stage where they feel the only hope of salvation lies in resistance against all forms, symbols and representatives of the occupation. Rabin must understand that the Israeli people's fundamental conflict is not with the Syrians, Jordanians or Lebanese. It is with the Palestinians. If Israeli leaders think that by neutralising Syria and the other Arab parties they can marginalise the Palestinians and bury their case, they are mistaken. Even the dovish partners in the Labour-led coalition cannot be so naive as to think that by unilaterally pulling out of Gaza, Palestinian violence will cease. It will not, and resistance can only intensify in the West Bank if Gaza is made the right example.

If Rabin and his partners want real peace with Israel's neighbours in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon they must realise that their country has first to make peace with the Palestinians.

Other Arab peoples and countries have all been involved in the conflict in Palestine because of the injustice done to the Palestinians and their continued exile and suffering. So, unless an end is found to the problem of the Palestinians and their national rights are addressed, there will be no peace between Arabs and Israelis.

Nobody should blame Rabin for the way he thinks, but he should be found guilty for not exerting enough effort to find out how his adversaries do.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Friday commented on statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to the Knesset in which he said that Israel was intent on reaching a peaceful treaty with Syria, saying that such statements are meant to cause splits among the Arab states directly involved in the peace process. This is not a new policy of Israel, which is keen on causing divisions among the Arab ranks, but it is a policy that can yield no result for the Jewish state, said the daily in an editorial. It said that the Arab parties have reached consensus on not accepting any partial settlements with Israel under any circumstances because, it said, the Arabs believe that there can be no alternative to a comprehensive and lasting settlement that can bring about genuine peace to the region. The elements of peace are known and the approach to peace is through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the paper added. Any settlement based on the principle of recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and can be swapped for land usurped over the past 25 years, the paper demanded. Israel has to date ignored the rights of the Palestinian people, directed its attention to massing arms and launching aggression on the Arabs and it continued its atrocities against the Arab population under its rule, the paper said. Mr. Peres and other decision-makers in Israel, added the daily, should realise the requirements of a lasting peace and should know that no Arab party can conclude a separate treaty with the Jewish state.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the private sector bears a major responsibility in helping deal with the unemployment problem in Jordan. It goes without saying that a solution to this problem does not lie only with the government which is trying its best to find jobs for the job seekers, said Salah Abdul Samad. Saying that some employers have been exploiting their workers, forcing them to carry out extra burdens, the writer said that such practice is being exercised because the employers realise that the workers in their pay would find it hard to get another job should they take action against the cruel rules. The writer said that it is fortunate that such practice is exercised by a few irresponsible employers who, he said, should be stopped by the government and should be made to realise that such behaviour is a flagrant violation of all religious, moral and social principles and considered alien to the Jordanian society. Dealing with unemployment is the responsibility of society as a whole, and the employers of the private sector are part of this society, he added. The writer said that the whole nation should be mobilised to find solutions to this chronic problem.

By G.H. Jansen

THE SOUND of the huge bomb that exploded in the garage of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre Friday Feb. 26, and the tremors it set up, will be heard and felt far beyond the east side of Lower Manhattan in New York. That violent event signalled a shift of seismic dimensions in the power-relationship between continents: between the Afro-Asian countries of the Third World and the First World, represented by its leading power. The explosion also contributed to a campaign of demonisation against Islam.

A historian in the future, surveying the relationships between the Third World and the First, which was represented for a long stretch of time by the imperial powers of Europe, could not but be struck by the strange fact that during the anti-imperial struggle in Third World countries, so little violence was directed at individual citizens of the imperial countries or at specifically First World targets.

Thus, it is a proud boast of the Indian national movement that only a handful of Britons were attacked in India in the course of the long drawn-out struggle and that it was only in the Quit India Movement that government buildings were targeted in any number. If that "immunity" can be attributed to the non-violent tactics of Mahatma Gandhi, there was a great deal of that "immunity" even in struggles that were not non-violent, as in Indonesia or Indo-China or the Arab countries.

That being the strange situation in the countries where the struggle was actually taking

Exploding into a new era

The New York World Trade Centre blast signals a shift in Third World struggle against the United States.

place, it is hardly to be wondered at the almost total immunity in the metropolitan countries — little or no violence against individuals or governmental targets in Britain and France, Holland or Belgium.

The U.S., having become a metropolitan power since World War II, has enjoyed the same immunity. Indeed, the first reaction of American commentators was that the Twin Towers explosion marked the end of an epoch when the U.S. was "immune" from "terrorism." The "immunity" of the U.S. to such violence was even more strange than in the case of the old metropolitan powers because there are so many countries, all over the Third World, whose nationalist "terrorists" had good reason to commit acts of retaliatory violence in the U.S. due to the violence they had had to suffer in their countries as a result of U.S. policies.

It is a long list: Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos; Bangladesh and India (which have had to fight wars against a Pakistan armed and supported by the U.S.); Iran; and all the 22 Arab countries grappling with Israel, the strategic friend and ally of the U.S.; Angola and Mozambique, ravaged by warlords promoted by the U.S.; and scores of countries in Central and South America, ravaged by dictators, created and

supported by the U.S. None of these have dared to resort to terrorism against the U.S., hardly at all on its own territory, except for the officers of USIS and a few embassies (and none at all in the U.S. itself).

But now, perhaps with the example set in New York, there could be other retaliatory attacks on the metropolitan U.S.

There has been one exception: the Palestinians. In June 1968, a young Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan, shot and killed Robert Kennedy, in a kitchen in a hotel in Los Angeles because in the course of his presidential campaign, Mr. Kennedy had pledged total armed support to Israel. As he pulled the trigger, Mr. Sirhan called out, "I did it for my country." But those six words, which explained his nationalist motivation, were successfully buried by the pro-Israeli American media. Instead, because there was no alternative motivation, like Communism, it was put about that Mr. Sirhan was "strange" perhaps not quite right in the head.

Now, after a long gap of 25 years, Palestinians, allegedly, have struck back violently at the U.S. and in the U.S. and once again their national motivation is being obscured by linking them to "Islamic terrorism." Even before the first arrest was made, of a

Palestinian, the media speculation was that militant Muslims were, most probably, almost certainly, involved in the bombing. And no sooner had Mohammad Salameh been charged than it was emphasised that he was "connected" to fundamentalists because he had attended a mosque in Jersey City in which sermons had been preached by a blind, militant Egyptian Sheikh.

The Palestinian-Muslim Islamic theory was readily accepted in the West because the ground had been prepared by years of Israeli and pro-Israeli propaganda on the theme that after the collapse of Communism, Islam had taken its place as the main threat to the West. This theme was repeated and amplified by no less a person than the President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, during his recent visits to Britain and France.

Immediately after the arrests of the "culprits" allegedly linked to militant Islam, commentators in Israel emphasised that the Twin Towers explosion should not be seen as an isolated incident but as one occurrence in a worldwide anti-Western campaign by "Islamic terrorism," in which Israel and the West should fight side by side.

Israel's anti-Islam stance had small beginnings, that were the direct result of Israeli policies in

Lebanon. In the early 1980s, the Israelis realised that their real enemy was no longer Arab or Palestinian nationalism but was instead militant Islam, as represented by the Lebanese Shia groups, Amal and Hizbollah, especially the latter.

Hizbollah was the only group which kept up armed attacks on Israel and Israel's local ally from its bases in south Lebanon. Indeed, Hizbollah formally declared that it would keep these attacks as long as Israel obstinately refused to comply with Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978, which demanded that Israel withdraw to the international borders between itself and Lebanon. Israel, however, set up an Israel-controlled "security zone" inside Lebanon in Shia territory. So, to get rid of the Israelis, Hizbollah's guerrillas fired and still fire rockets into Israel and ambush Israeli army units with mines and roadside bombs. And no amount of Israeli punitive action, using artillery or helicopter gunships, deters the Shias.

At the opposite end of Israel, in the Gaza Strip, Israel found that its most active antagonist was the Sunni Palestinian Islamic group, Hamas (which Israel had at one point encouraged as a counterweight to the PLO).

Thus, locked in combat with Hizbollah and Hamas, both Isla-

mic groups supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel broadened its target from these two groups to "Islamic terrorism" as a whole.

This theory found ready acceptance in the West where there has been a residue of anti-Islamic feeling ever since the crusades in the eleventh century. It is hardly surprising that the U.S. State Department's list of "terrorist states" mentions, apart from Communist Cuba, only Muslim countries: Syria, Iran, Iraq and Libya. Apart from "terrorism", another source of antagonism between the West and Islam is that militant Muslims are opposed to the moderate local friends of the West in such Muslim countries as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Algeria.

Will the Twin Tower bombing be an isolated act like that of Sirhan Sirhan? Probably not, because the target of Third World retaliatory violence has been narrowed down and concentrated on "the One World Power," against which there is much more anger and resentment in 1993 than there was in 1968, especially in West Asia.

The West and Israel would have nothing to fear from "Islamic terrorism" if they only followed policies that were observably just and impartial in, for instance, West Asia and the Balkans. If not, they may have occasion to remember that a crude, homemade Third World type of bomb used against the Twin Towers could be as dangerous and destructive as any sophisticated First World model.

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialising in Islamic and Middle Eastern affairs.

'Democratising' Communism?

In the second article in a series of profiles of political parties, Sausan Ghosheh talks to the head of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party about the past and future of a movement that says it has adapted Marxism to the needs of the Jordanian Society.



Issa Mdanat, seeking "social justice"?

"fundamentalists" in their perception of Marxism, now use Marxism as an "epistemology" trying to adapt it to the Jordanian society.

According to Dr. Yacoub Zayadin, secretary general of the JSDP, this new approach to Marxism has also been embraced by the JCP, making more ambiguous the reason for the split.

Mr. Mdanat said that the JSDP changed its internal organisation in order to "allow democracy." In addition, Mr. Kouader said the party is "calling for pluralism within itself and not just in the Jordanian society."

But when looking at the structure of the JSDP, it seems similar to the JCP: hierarchical. Furthermore, the reforms that the JSDP says it implemented are the same as the reforms Dr. Zayadin said the JCP is undergoing, such as term limitations and open dialogue.

The JSDP is similar in its form, politics and ideology to the JCP, which makes the reason for the dissent unclear and causes some observers to attribute it to personality conflicts.

Although members of the JSDP have had a long history of political activity in Jordan, like other leftist parties, the JSDP is not popular with the masses. This, Mr. Kouader explains, is because the left is calling for substantial change in all aspects of life. Change, he added, is hard for people to accept.

The JSDP, according to its members, comprises 300-400 individuals of whom less than 10 per cent are women.

When asked if these parties with similar outlooks should unite rather than split in order to become stronger, Mr. Mdanat said his party was the first to call for the unity of the left. He said the JSDP has received positive responses from the Jordanian Democratic Peo-

ple's Party and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the three groups are in the process of forming a joint leadership committee at local, regional and higher level positions.

However, the JCP has not responded to his call, describing the call for unity as "wishful thinking by Issa Mdanat" and adding that it would have responded to the move if it had thought it was something formal.

Counting on alleged support in Amman, Karak (Mr. Mdanat's hometown), Irbid, Zarqa, Hussein Refugee Camp and Baqa Refugee Camp, the JSDP hopes to win two parliamentary seats in the coming elections. In the past elections, Issa Mdanat won a seat in Parliament and Mustafa Shinkat came close to winning a second one. So far, the JSDP has not decided how many of its members it will nominate, saying that this will depend on its financial ability.

The party's finances, according to Mr. Mdanat, are obtained from membership fees and from donations. The JSDP, he said, suffers from financial shortages, explaining that all the money the JCP owned before the split remained with the current JCP and negotiations over reclaiming it are underway. JCP sources denied that any negotiations are underway and stated that "the money" owned by any party "is for the party and not for individuals in it."

THE WEEK IN PRINT

The power of the intifada

JORDANIAN DAILY newspapers last week focused on the ongoing escalation of violence in the occupied Arab territories, the U.S.-Israeli attitude and a host of domestic issues in Jordan.

Al Dstour daily openly accused the United States of enforcing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's hand and encouraging the Jewish state in its current repressive measures against the Palestinians. The escalation of violence, triggered by the Israelis and the atrocities of the Jewish settlers in the occupied lands, emerged following a tour of the region by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and during Mr. Rabin's tour of the United States and his talks with the Clinton administration, said the paper. For its part, Washington has openly declared its intention of maintaining an Israeli military superiority over the Arab states in defiance of the Arab Nation, said the daily.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the escalation of resistance to the Israeli occupation has forced the Israelis to contemplate withdrawing from the Gaza Strip. Salameh Ekour said that it was not out of respect for resolution 242 and 338 that the Israelis are contemplating such a decision but rather under pressure from the intifada. Only through confrontation will Israel be forced to withdraw its forces from the occupied lands and only through a war of attrition will the Jewish state succumb to the Arab will, said the writer.

Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dstour, expressed dismay at the attitudes of most Arab states with regard to the ongoing events in the occupied lands. The writer said that most Arab states are showing indifference to the events and not caring for the urgent need of assistance required by the Palestinian resistance to enable it to continue the struggle.

Taher Al Udwan criticised Palestinian leaders who recently rejected Israel's idea of withdrawing from Gaza. The columnist, who writes for Al Dstour, said that Mr. Rabin's "expected" decision to withdraw from Gaza can be understood as a measure to avoid further killings of Israeli troops, but it is not understandable to hear Arab voices warning against such move.

Asaad Abdul Rahman said in a column in Al Ra'i daily that Mr. Rabin has no alternative but to withdraw from Gaza and all the occupied Arab lands. The writer said that although the eyes are now turned to Gaza, it would not be long before the Israelis could be contemplating the idea of pulling out from the rest of the occupied lands under the pressure of the intifada.

Abdul Rahim Omar, another columnist in Al Ra'i, commented on the upsurge of violence and resistance activities in the occu-

pled lands by saying that the intifada, which started five years ago with stones, is now being transformed into a real rebellion. The writer said that the Israelis are now forced to distribute weapons to all society members so that they can protect themselves from this rebellion.

But for the Palestinians, he said, the struggle is bound to continue as the local population is determined to regain its freedom and no Israeli measures can stop them from doing so.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that in the light of the Rabin visit to the United States and his talks with President Bill Clinton the Arabs are convinced now that Washington can by no means play the role of full partner in the peace process.

The writer said that the Clinton-Rabin agreement will provide the directives for the coming peace talks between the Arabs and the Israelis. The Arab parties have no alternative but to obey the "American master" now that they are in disarray with Iraq and Egypt out of the way, said the writer. He said that all the Arab parties are bound to go to Washington for the next session but they ought to prepare themselves to deal with the United States, which can by no means play the role of partner.

Commenting on the coming meeting to be held in Syria later

this month by the Arab parties to the peace talks, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Arab foreign ministers meeting is decisive and could determine the rate of the coming peace session. The paper said that while preparations are underway for the coming meeting, we continue to hear conflicting statements by the Palestinian and other Arab leaders about the coming negotiations and also about the Arab Nation's stand vis-à-vis the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 799.

If the Arabs allow Mr. Rabin to get away with his plans not to repatriate the expellees in implementation of that resolution, said the paper, very little can be expected to come from the peace negotiations which are supposed to be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dstour, said that in the light of the Rabin-Clinton agreement as announced in Washington, the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus later this month ought to take a decision concerning a future Arab strategy not only with regard to the peace talks but rather concerning future dealings with the United States and Israel. The writer said that as the Arab masses remain in the dark about the coming moves of the Arab states, the Damascus parley is expected to declare a clear-cut stand and remove ling-

ering suspicions about the peace process.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily called for a quick end to the disputes between Baghdad and Damascus as a means to end the disarray in Arab ranks. Hani Khasawneh said that the Zionist Western strategy has always been based on keeping Iraq and Syria separated and hostile to each other, and any move towards reconciling them has been strongly and fiercely opposed by all means.

Hamadeh Farsaneh, a columnist in Al Dstour, tackled the question of unity between the Palestinian and Jordanian people, saying that the two sides are bound to be united for ever. "Any tampering with the real unity between the Palestinians and the Jordanians can only be interpreted as a move to harm Arab national interests, said the writer. Jordan's severance of administrative relations between the two banks of the River Jordan was only meant as a means to consolidate the Palestinian people's struggle and their identity, said the writer. But, he said, the move on the part of Jordan can by no means end the real and national unity between the Jordan and Palestinian families who in fact form a united family.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised voices seeking

to see Jordanian women retreat from their drive to contribute positively and constructively to the socio-economic development of Jordan. Only underdeveloped and reactionary communities in the world consider women as half human beings while advanced societies worldwide consider women equal to men, said the writer.

The writer said that although Jordanian women are in a better position than women in many Arab states, there is a long way to go to help them to exercise their social, political and other rights in full. The writer said that the progress achieved in the women's position in Jordan should not be ruined and their contribution to socio-economic development must not be allowed to regress under any circumstances.

A columnist in Al Ra'i criticised Parliament members for their negligence of their duty. Izzat Abdul Ali said lately the public has been witnessing a negative attitude on the part of deputies who chose on several occasions to absent themselves from sessions, thus failing in their duty to their country. The voters are not happy at all at seeing their representatives in Parliament being transformed into clowns,

quick to make speeches but slow to perform their basic duty, he said. The writer said that the deputies to date have failed to come up with a concerted effort to find a solution to the unemployment problem and left many of the chronic issues unattended to as they approach the end of their mandate.

Exiles feud

(Continued from page 1)

muddy, makeshift camp. Hamas supporters returned to their tents without taking part in the march.

An expellee, who declined to be identified, said Iranian Revolutionary Guards smuggled food to the camp between Israeli and Lebanese lines Thursday and had a meal with the men.

Revolutionary Guards have been based in eastern Lebanon since Israel invaded in 1982 to expel Palestinian guerrillas.

"What Rantisi said represents his own position," Mr. Shami told Reuters. Islamic Jihad has closer ties to Iran than Hamas.

Iran had urged Muslims to rally Friday to help Palestinians regain their rights.

Protests have been held on the last Friday of the Holy Month of Ramadan since Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dedicated the day to anti-Israeli demonstrations in 1979.

Iranian demonstrators, some wearing white shrouds to show their willingness to die for Islam, converged on Tehran University for mass Friday prayers as part of nationwide rallies, Tehran Radio said.

Iranian Television showed men and black-clad women carrying signs reading "Israel must be obliterated," and placards showing a star of David engulfed by flames of the Palestinian uprising.

"It is a basic source of pride for us that today Iran is alone among 180 countries of the world to say it is against negotiation (with Israel)," President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a sermon. "It is not for no reason that they accuse us of stubbornness."

A statement read at the rally to the approving chants of "Allahu Akbar," called for continuation



Masked Hizbollah fighters march through a Beirut Suburb Friday marking Al Quds Day (AFP photo)

of "jihad operations against the occupiers of Quds," Iran's IRNA news agency said.

It listed Israel and the United States as Islam's foremost foes, followed by "Serb butchers," and urged Muslim youth around the world to form resistance cells against them, IRNA said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said all the West's enmity against Iran flowed from Iran's stance on the Palestinian problem which he described as the "focal point of the standoff between Islam and infidelity, the oppressors and the oppressed."

"If they raise (our seeking of) nuclear arms... terrorism or human rights (violations), it is all because of this," he said.

In Beirut, sword-wielding Shi'ite Muslims in Japanese-style ninja warrior costumes paraded in the Lebanese capital southern slums Friday to mark Al Quds Day.

Their heads covered in hoods, they shouted "Death to Israel and its patron, the great Satan" and trampled the U.S. and Israeli flags.

Some 2,000 militants of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah took part in the parade. Some wore green, and others black attire that covered them from head to toe. They were cheered by a crowd of about 10,000 people.

Lebanese policemen watched from a distance as the men performed one of their "drills" — a rescue operation for victims of a hypothetical car bombing.

The crowd dispersed peacefully an hour later.

Hundreds of Palestinians marched through the dusty streets of the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in South Lebanon, chanting "We shall return, Jerusalem is ours."

The teeming shantytown, the largest among 13 refugee camps in Lebanon, was shuttered by a work strike called for the occasion by Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah faction.

Rabin

(Continued from page 1)

number of Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon, adding: "I got certain answers. I don't believe it is advisable to discuss them in public."

Mr. Rabin and Dr. Ghali, an Egyptian, met alone for about 30 minutes and then were joined by aides for an additional half-hour.

The U.N. spokesman said Dr. Ghali told Mr. Rabin that the unresolved issue of the Palestinian expellees "may continue to be a stumbling block in the reintegration of the Palestinians in the peace process."

Both men agreed the peace talks should be resumed as soon as possible, the spokesman added.

Asked by a reporter about the exiles, Mr. Rabin referred to an agreement he reached last month with Secretary of State Warren Christopher under which about 100 of the Palestinians would be allowed to return immediately and the remainder before the end

of the year.

The exiles have rejected the offer, demanding that all should be repatriated without delay.

A leading Syrian newspaper accused Israel Friday of trying to undermine the credibility of the United States as a neutral mediator in the Middle East peace process.

The daily Al Thawra said in an editorial that Mr. Rabin's recent trip to Washington was aimed at "persuading Washington to remain biased towards Israel."

The trip, it said, was "not in favour of the Middle East peace process in the sense that it did not help remove the remaining obstacles in the way of resuming talks in Washington."

It referred to President Clinton's assertion that Washington would help Israel maintain a military edge over the Arabs, saying such a policy has in the past "proved futile" in promoting Middle East peace.

"Israel's continued adherence to its interpretation of security... takes the whole region back to the starting point with regard to

the peace process," it said.

Al Thawra said the Arabs were not looking for a U.S. policy bias towards them. "They only ask for a balanced and reasonable American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"They seek continued U.S. commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy," the paper said.

"Despite the doubt and concern" Mr. Rabin's visit had raised among the Arabs, they remain committed to the peace process, it concluded.

Arab participants in the peace

process — Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians — plan to meet in Damascus March 20 to decide whether they will attend the next round of peace talks with Israel in Washington April 20.

Mr. Rabin said in Washington this week that Israel would consider a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which it occupied from Syria in 1967, in return for a peace treaty with Damascus.

But President Hafez Al Assad said Wednesday his country would not sign a separate peace accord with the Jewish state, insisting on a comprehensive settlement that includes the other Arabs.

Marines move

(Continued from page 1)

to an international court for trial," Mr. Awale said.

Other conditions included compensation for those affected by Gen. Morgan's attacks and an international investigation into fighting in Kismayu.

Mr. Awale said a deadline had

not yet been set for the conditions.

Gen. Morgan, the son-in-law of deposed dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, Friday accused supporters of Col. Jess of being responsible for the fighting in Kismayu.

Suspect

(Continued from page 1)

charges in the shooting.

Mr. Gabrowny, Mr. Nosair, Mr. Salameh and the missing taxi driver are said to be followers of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a fundamentalist cleric who preaches at mosques in New Jersey and Brooklyn.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who is fighting a U.S. deportation order, is a spiritual leader for fundamentalists in Egypt who are charged with a series of attacks.

In an interview on Thursday with Cable News Network (CNN), Sheikh Abdul Rahman denied any involvement in the attack and blamed the news media for linking him to the blast.

"The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations) has never accused me, so why do you show my picture in connection with the bombing?" he said.

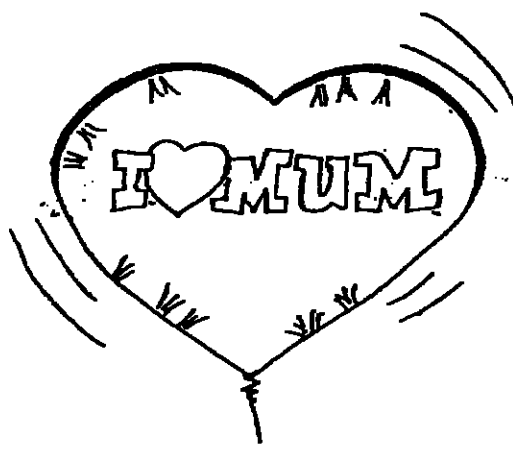
He said in the interview that he does not know any of those charged in the crime. He said anyone "can go and pray at the mosque where I pray."

Egypt said Thursday it did not have enough evidence to put Sheikh Abdul Rahman on trial for the attacks.

General Bahaeddine Ibrahim, a senior security official, on Thursday described Sheikh Abdul Rahman as the "philosopher" of the militants, who have killed dozens of people in their campaign to overthrow the government.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is a threat to U.S. security and has several thousand followers in Egypt, a judge reportedly said in a deportation ruling.

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Jodami wins Gold Cup; Cherrykino destroyed

CHELLENHAM, England (AP) — Jodami surged past long time leader Rushing Wild to romp two lengths clear Wednesday and win the prestigious \$150,000 Cheltenham Gold Cup horse race.

Ridden by Irish jockey Mark Dwyer, the 8-1 shot timed his run to perfection to win the 3-1/4 mile (5.2 kilometre) race.

Royal Athlete, a 66-1 shot, placed third eight lengths behind with the 5-4 favorite, French trained The Fellow, fourth.

The race was a big letdown for followers and handlers of The Fellow, trained by Francois Doumen, which had finished second for the past two years.

Polish-born jockey Adam Kondrat moved the 8 year old gelding through the 16-strong field but he never got near the leaders.

Rushing Wild, ridden by Richard Dunwoody, led from the start until the final furlong. He picked up the pace about two thirds the way through and, with four fences to go, had Sidon Adey and Royal Athlete close by.

With three to go Dwyer moved Jodami up to third place and he moved alongside the leader at the last.

They landed stride for stride but Jodami moved smoothly into the lead 200 yards from the line and stayed there.

Although Dwyer won the race before on Forgive 'N Forget in 1985, it was a first time triumph for trainer Peter Deaumont.



Crowds follow Jodami ridden by Mark Dwyer after winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup Britain's premier steeplechase

"This was what we had aimed for all season," he said. "The jockey brought him gently through and did a good job."

The race was marred by the elbow while falling the seventh fence and was humanely destroyed. A 20-1 shot, Cherrykino had won his last six races.

Jodami joined a list of famous names to have won the gold cup. They include five time winner golden miller, which also won the Grand National Steeplechase, three time winner Arkle, Dawn Run, which also won the champion hurdle, and Desert Orchid.

Ahli score 82-78 win over Orthodoxi

JBF announces regrouping of women's national team

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Naser Bushnaq scored 31 points for his team as Al Ahli Thursday overcame Al Orthodoxi 82-78 in a charity match to benefit the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund.

The match, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, and attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat and about 1500 basketball fans, was clearly under the control of Jordan's 1990 champions, Al Ahli, who at some points in the match managed to widen the gap to 23 points.

Bushnaq scored 15 of his team's 19 points in the first half of the first half as Al Ahli led 19-15.

Muntaser Abul Tayeb and Al Orthodoxi's undisputed stars, Murad and Hilal Barakat who together scored 47 points, rebounded and scored but Al Orthodoxi continued to trail 27-24 after a three-pointer by playmaker Jihad Saliba, with 9 minutes remaining in the first half.

Al Ahli, who depended on a cohesive teamwork, tight defence and fast play scored through playmaker Samir Murqus, and Bushnaq as they widened the gap to 42-31.

After a time-out Al Ahli resorted to a full court press defence, which surprisingly confused Al Orthodoxi, leading to a series of loose balls.

Al Ahli's Marwan Ma'touq scored two three-pointers to give his team a commanding lead of 20 points at 52-32 with two minutes remaining.

Al Orthodoxi who were playing without the guidance of a coach after they dismissed Mohammed Al Najjar earlier this month, seemed at a loss and had it not been for the experienced Barakat brothers, who effectively led their team despite consistent quarrels with the referees, Al Ahli might have expanded their big



Al Orthodoxi's Jihad Saliba helplessly watches Al Teammates Walid Badran and Marwan Ma'touq Ahli's Naser Bushnaq on his way for a layup. (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

lead much further.

Al Ahli won the first half 56-39.

Al Orthodoxi's Hilal Barakat, who scored a total of 30 points in the match, and energetic playmaker Saliba scored at the beginning of the first half. On the other hand, Al Ahli's Mohammed Al Shammali and, Walid Badran and Ma'touq expanded their team's lead to 23 points at 71-48 in the ninth minute while Murad Barakat got 2 personal fouls in 15 seconds.

Ziad Nabulsi, Hilal Barakat and teammates got a boost of energy at the middle of the second half, and strove to lessen the gap. Consequently they succeeded in scoring 3 three-pointers as Al Ahli's lead was somewhat reduced to 71-65.

However the lead was too wide for Al Orthodoxi to try to catch up and convert to a win, as Ma'touq scored his fourth three-pointer of the game, with Bushnaq, Murqus and Badran

following through as the scoreboard showed an 82-75 lead for Al Ahli in the final minutes. However Hilal Barakat was fouled in the final second, and he scored 3 free throws to end the match 82-78.

Women's national team meets Sunday

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) meanwhile announced the regrouping of the women's national team. JBF spokesman Rizeq Al Masri told the Jordan Times Friday that members of the women's national team, who had been named by the previous JBF board in December, are called for a meeting Sunday to discuss the team's possible participation in the Saddam International Championship April 28-May 4.

The players representing four clubs are: Lara Al Masri, Jihan Abdulnour, Carol Seika-

ly, Ghadah Qandah, Dina Ra'ad, Rima Qandah, and Hind Al Ouri from Al Orthodoxi; Indeira Qassessieh, Lara Al Saeed, Sirsa Naghaway, Subeir Dahdaleh, and Luma Abu Ayyash from Al Ahli; Tala Al Mauge, Rania Al Dajani, Hala Muheisen, and Tala Abu Shmeis from Al Jazireh; Sima Tokajan, Lara Kevorkian and Aileen Bannayan from Homentmen.

Masri also said that the youth's under-22 national team would have a training camp in Amman March 23-29. The team will also meet its Iraqi counterpart April 4-8 in preparation for the Asian Youth Basketball Championship in Hong Kong at the end of April.

The Iraqi men's national team would also play its Jordanian counterpart in the first week of September, in preparation for the Asian Championship due to begin in Jakarta in mid-November.

World Youth Soccer Championship

Brazilians aiming to make history

SYDNEY (R) — Brazil, bidding for a record third World Youth Soccer Championship title, believe that African champions Ghana could fold under pressure when they meet in Saturday's final.

Brazilian coach Julio Leal said Friday his talented and organised team would not allow the Ghanaians to settle in the final between the two most exciting teams in the 16-nation tournament.

Ghana, playing in their first under-20 competition after winning the U-17 World Championships two years ago, stumbled against England in the second half of their semifinals last Wednesday, holding on for a 2-1 win.

"We can see that they sometimes become less organised under pressure," Leal told reporters.

In defence the Ghanaians have rarely been tested in the tournament, but were nearly found wanting on a number of occasions against England.

In attack, the close marking of the English prompted the Africans into too many long range shots. The Russians also managed to frustrate Ghana during the first half of their quarter-final clash.

"They are very good with the ball and can't be allowed to progress too far," Leal said.

England coach David Burnside said today he believed the Ghanaians could falter if they become frustrated during the first 45 minutes of the final.

"I believe we had them worked out by the second half," Burnside said of England's loss.

"They were going around us at first, but when we denied their confidence we came back strongly."

Previous winners of the World Youth Soccer Championship before Saturday's final between Brazil and Ghana to be played in Sydney:

YEAR	HOST COUNTRY	FINAL RESULT
1991	(Portugal)	Portugal beat Brazil 0-0 (4-2 on penalties)
1989	(Saudi Arabia)	Portugal beat Nigeria 2-0
1987	(Chile)	Yugoslavia beat West Germany 1-1 (5-4 on penalties)
1985	(Soviet Union)	Brazil beat Spain 1-0
1983	(Mexico)	Brazil beat Argentina 1-0
1981	(Australia)	West Germany beat Qatar 4-0
1979	(Japan)	Argentina beat Soviet Union 3-1
1977	(Tunisia)	Soviet Union beat Mexico 0-0 (9-8 on penalties)

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East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 4 3
♥ Void
♦ A Q 9 6 5
♣ A Q J 7

WEST
♠ A J 8 5 2
♥ K 9 6
♦ A K Q 9 8 7 3
♣ 2

EAST
♠ J 7
♥ 4 3
♦ Void
♣ K 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 10
♥ J 6
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ 10 9 6 5 4 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ 4♥ 5♣ Dbl
Pass 5♥ Pass Pass
6♣ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣
The textbook will tell you that you need at least 33 points for a small slam to be a reasonable proposition; 37 points for a grand slam. These generalizations are accurate enough when the distribution is normal. But when freak hands abound, all guidelines can be tossed out the

window, vividly illustrated by this hand from a recent rubber bridge game at the YMPL Card Association in New York.

There was nothing remarkable about the first two bids in the auction. We are not sure, even at this vulnerability, whether we would have had the courage to act immediately with the South hand. However, North would have reopened with a double and the final contract might well have been the same.

West led the four of hearts and South, Nadine Warfield, carefully ruffed the opening lead with the jack of clubs. The closing hand was entered with the king of diamonds, and the ten of clubs was run. The trump finesse was repeated and, after drawing the last trump, declarer claimed 12 tricks—five diamonds, six clubs and a heart ruff.

Note that the slam will be defeated if declarer carelessly ruffs the opening lead with a low trump. Declarer can come to hand with a diamond to take a trump finesse, but then has no fast entry back to repeat the finesse. The defenders can win the first spade and force dummy with another heart, and West must come to a trump trick.

Courier, Agassi fall at Lipton Championships

KEY BISCAYNE (R) — Marquee names disappeared in bunches at the disaster-plagued Lipton Championships Thursday as Jim Courier, Andre Agassi, Michael Stich and Mary Joe Fernandez were all sent packing.

Second seed Pete Sampras was a late-night survivor. He was stretched, but managed to avoid the fate of the other big name players by beating Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev 6-7 6-3 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals.

Third seed Stefan Edberg also survived the upset wave with an uneventful 6-2 6-4 win over 13th-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget in an early fourth round match.

The biggest shocker came when world number one Courier was unable to win twice in one day and lost his fourth round match 6-3 2-6 6-2 to 22nd-ranked Australian left-hander, Mark Woodforde.

Earlier on Thursday, Courier had breezed through his twice postponed third round match, crushing Mikael Pernfors of Sweden 6-0 6-3. But his usual fire was missing when he had to come back and play again.

"I don't know why I wasn't on top of my game," said the Australian Open champion. "It was a poor performance and Mark was serving very well."

The \$3 million tournament, which had been disrupted for six days by rain storms and gale force winds, suffered its latest indignity when the stadium court surface began to peel up, forcing featured matches to move to outside courts and more schedule shuffling.

While the stadium court was being repaired, the grandstand quickly became a "graveyard of champions."

Prior to Courier's ouster, another of the tournament's biggest drawing cards, eighth-seeded Wimbledon champion Agassi, fell to 10-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek 6-2 7-5.

The grandstand also sounded the deathknell of 1991 Wimbledon champion Stich when the German was upset by unseeded South African Marcos Ondruska 7-6 6-3.

Some semblance of order was restored when the women's quarter-finals began on the newly-repaired stadium court as Gabriela Sabatini fought back from 0-6 deficits in both sets to eliminate sixth-seeded Czech Jana Novotna 6-2 6-3.

Women's top seed Steffi Graf then came on and crushed eighth seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-1 6-0 to set up a semifinal clash with Sabatini.

The fifth-seeded Fernandez,

however, joined the growing list of upset victims when she fell to resourceful Kimiko Date of Japan 7-6 6-3.

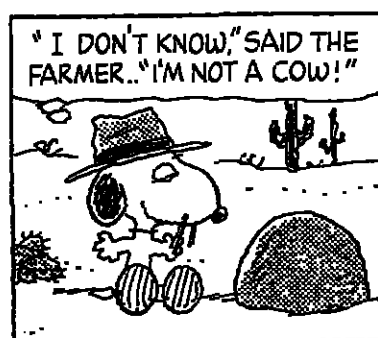
The 16th-seeded Date earned a semifinal meeting with second seed and defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who posted a 7-5 6-1 victory over Lilia Meskhi of Georgia on one of the outside courts.

Courier appeared to have found his winning strokes when he took the second set from Woodforde to level the match.

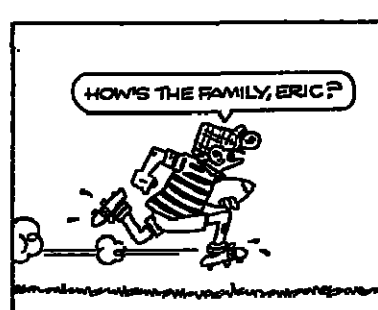
Instead, it was Woodforde who served consistently and opened the third set with a quick break taking a 2-0 lead on the way to an insurmountable 5-1 advantage.

"I knew I had to serve well to beat the number one player in the world," said Woodforde, who meets Ondruska in the quarter-finals in a battle of the tournament's giant killers.

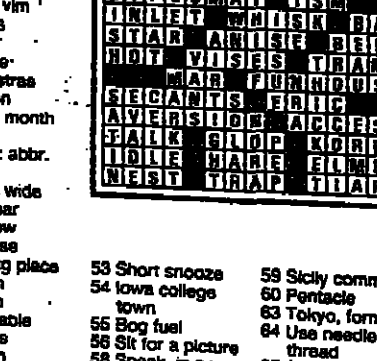
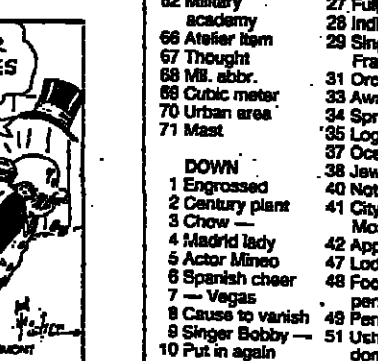
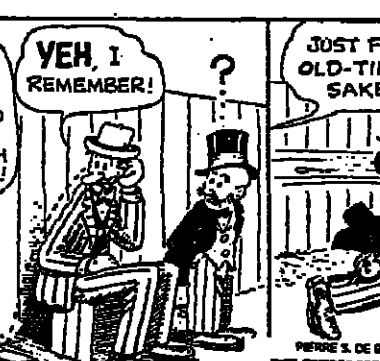
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Vernal Equinox occurs this morning as the Sun enters Aries so be certain to double-check your say or do in order to avoid a potential lurking mistake. Weighing your words is important.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take a good look at your dwelling and consider what you can best do to increase the well being and operating skill there, then relax at home tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can start the day on a happy note by contacting persons you like and making arrangements to see and visit them at mutual convenience.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can make rapid advancement in your desire to have more of this world's goods by starting early in the morning to attain them, then find ways to economize.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make progress to gain your secret longings now by a well rounded attack to gain them so be on the alert for various means to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can be just as gregarious as you wish today and see and be with many charming and attractive friends and acquaintances and benefit through such sociability.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) This is the day when you find

that you are closer to those interests that appeal to you the most but it is necessary you return favours without criticisms.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get out early in the world of accomplishment and you find it is easy to impress others who are prominent and to get their support for your project.

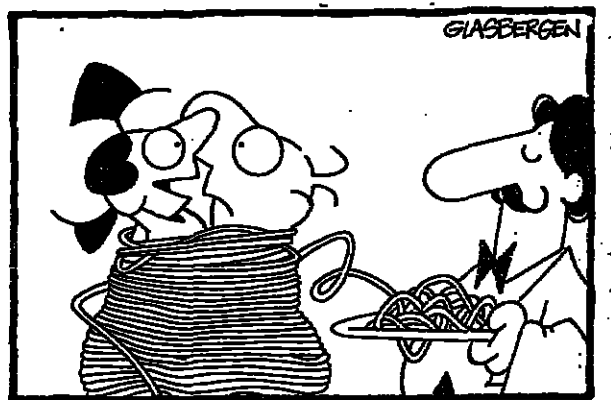
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Many new conditions are facing you and bring you big opportunities so don't hold on so tightly to the past but be willing to go along with advanced conditions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to stop putting off matters of a practical nature since you now are under excellent influences for getting them well handled.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Seek out persons who are more materialistic minded than you are and get them to discuss and work out with you a better daily arrangement.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about the many interests and activities you have and plan to do them on a more organised and scheduled time frame and you increase success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A wonderful day to get into the pleasures and activities that bring you a feeling of wellbeing and peace of mind so plan to do this today.



"This is the most romantic Italian restaurant I've ever been to!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TIXYS

HAWRT

MIKON

SARGIT

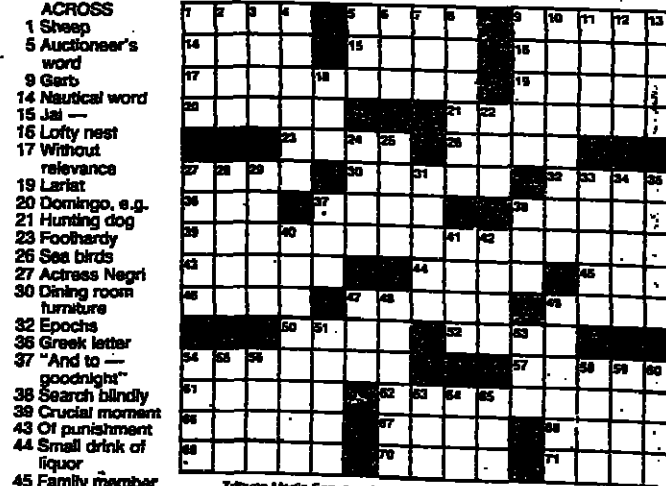
Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: DOUST AFIRE DURESS AIRWAY

Answer: A common letter-opener—"DEAR SIR"

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin



Across: 1 Sheep, 5 Auctioneer's word, 9 Garb, 14 Nautical word, 15 Jail, 16 Lullaby, 17 Window, 18 Lariat, 19 Domingo, e.g., 21 Hunting dog, 23 Footstool, 25 Sea birds, 27 Actress Negri, 30 Dining room furniture, 32 Epochs, 36 Greek letter, 37 "And to—", 38 Search blindly, 39 Crucial moment, 43 Of punishment, 44 Small drink of liquor, 45 Family member, 47 Map feature, 48 Soccer notable, 49 Hindu queen, 52 Comic-jay, 54 Name for an office, 57 French town, 61 Cat calls, 62 Military academy, 66 After item, 67 Thought, 69 Vbl. abbr., 70 Urban area, 71 Mast.

Down: 1 Engrosed, 2 Centenary, 3 Oriental plant, 4 Snow, 5 Actor's lady, 6 Actor Mingo, 7 Spanish cheer, 8 Vegas, 9 Cause to vanish, 10 Put in again, 11 Part of QED, 12 Location, 13 Sings, 16 Musical syllable, 22 Crude metal, 24 French town, 25 50 percent, 26 Full of vim, 28 Jewels, 29 Singer, 31 Orchestra, 33 Swedish, 34 Spring month, 35 Logic, 37 Ocean: abbr., 38 Jewel, 40 Not as wide, 41 City near Moscow, 42 Appraisal, 43 Lodging place, 46 Foolish person, 48 Permeable, 51 User's domain, 53 Short snooze, 54 Low college town, 56 Bog fuel, 58 Sit for a picture, 59 Speak, in a way, 59 Sicily commune, 60 Pentacle, 63 Use needle and thread, 64 Use needle and thread, 65 Summer shade.

S. Korean president calls for painful economic surgery

SEOUL (R) — President Kim Young-Sam asked South Koreans Friday to endure painful economic surgery, including wage and price freezes, in order to rescue the economy.

In a televised speech, he urged South Korean business to freeze commodity and service sector prices for a year, civil servants to accept wage freezes and called on the private sector to exercise restraint in wage increase demands.

"I believe it is my historic mission to revive the economy. Our economy is in a very difficult situation. The time has come for sweat and tears," Mr. Kim said.

Noting that gross national product (GNP) growth slowed to under three per cent in the second half of last year, Mr. Kim

said a 100-day emergency economic rescue programme would be unveiled Monday, to be followed by a five-year revitalisation plan.

"Everybody should work harder, conserve more and save more," he said.

Real GNP growth in 1992 is estimated to have slowed to 4.9 per cent from 8.4 per cent in 1991.

The government would seek to "stabilise prices of daily necessities for ordinary people... (and) directly manage prices of those consumer goods which are indispensable for ordinary people's living," Mr. Kim said.

"I will also lower public monetary interest rates again," he said.

Economists said they expected the finance ministry to cut reg-

ulated interest rates, including the rediscount rate, by one percentage point from the current range of 10 to 12 per cent.

Mr. Kim is also expected to try to jump-start the economy by bringing forward a number of large-scale public works projects, ordering increased spending on research and development and eliminating red tape which hinders economic activity as part of the 100-day plan.

The longer-term plan envisages the opposite tack — large-scale liberalisation and restructuring to embrace more free principles and cut through red tape.

"We entirely agree with Kim's revitalisation plan. Manufacturers and exporters need regulations to be relaxed and lower interest rates to improve the competitive edge," said a spokesman at the big-business lobby, the Federation of Korean Industries.

Iran says its banks are out of the red

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's state banks are making a profit again after several years in the red, central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli said.

Speaking on Tehran radio, Mr. Adeli said bank deposits had more than doubled over the past four years and banks were raising the annual return paid on various types of deposits by one percentage point to a maximum of 15 per cent.

Mr. Adeli attributed the turnaround in profits to a three-and-a-half-year auditing project in which 300 accountants brought the banks' accounts up to date.

"The banks' profit-making ability increased because of this project. Three years ago all banks were losing money, showing accumulated losses of 86 billion rials (\$56 million at the current floating exchange rate). This has now been turned into profit. The banks' profit in the Iranian year 1370 (ending March 20, 1992) reached about 100 billion rials

(\$65 million)," he said.

Iran nationalised private banks after the 1979 Islamic revolution, merging some of them to form a total of eight commercial banks.

Mr. Adeli said the banks would soon publish their balance sheets for the last Iranian year, making their financial situation public for the first time in many years. This year's balance sheets would be published within six months.

Iran has banned interest as a form of usury under its Islamic banking act of 1983 which says banks should instead charge fees on loans and pay out shares of their profits to depositors.

The payout is determined according to the bank's performance at the end of the year with a minimum guaranteed beforehand.

Mr. Adeli said the rates of return for the Iranian year ending Saturday ranged from 7.5 per cent for three-month deposits to 15 per cent for five-year deposits.

The rates are one percentage point above last year's and half a percentage point above this year's provisional figures.

But they are still far below the interest rate charged in the Tehran Bazaar — up to 50 per cent — and the inflation rate of well above 20 per cent.

Mr. Adeli had said last year that profit rates for each bank would be calculated separately to encourage competition, but his remarks appeared to indicate that the payout had again been calculated on the basis of the bank's aggregate performance.

Iranian television quoted Mr. Adeli as saying the volume of bank deposits had reached 28 trillion rials (\$18.2 billion) from 12 trillion (\$7.8 billion) four years ago.

Loans paid out by banks rose to 22 trillion rials (\$14.3 billion) from seven trillion rials (\$4.5 billion) in the same period, Mr. Adeli said.

House Democrats hand Clinton 2 big victories

WASHINGTON (R) — House of Representatives Democrats handed President Bill Clinton two big victories early Friday, easily passing a sweeping budget measure and a \$16.2 billion job stimulus bill — the first planks in his economic plan.

While Democrats showed renewed discipline with only a handful voting against the legislation, the president did not get a single Republican vote for his budget and only three votes for the jobs bill.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Mr. Clinton warned the Democrats would win all the credit for tackling the nation's budget woes unless Republicans backed some of his proposals.

"I think the Republicans will come along," said Mr. Clinton to a small group of reporters and photographers after attending a black-tie dinner.

"They see that the country wants change," Mr. Clinton said. "They don't want to keep doing the same thing."

The debate now moves to the Senate, which is expected to be a tougher sell. But in an encouraging sign for the White House, Thursday Senators defeated an amendment aimed at blocking Mr. Clinton's proposed energy tax.

The energy tax is opposed by senators from oil-producing states and the west, which uses much petrol.

After hours of debate, late Thursday the House passed a broad budget resolution requiring a record \$510 billion in deficit cuts over the next five years, and allowing about \$1.5 trillion in spending in fiscal 1994.

The budget calls for \$264 billion in spending cuts, more than \$100 billion in new spending, more than \$300 billion in new taxes and more than \$100 billion in defence spending cuts.

Specific spending decisions will be left to congressional commit-

tees. Mr. Clinton has called for more funding for education, training and other programmes. He wants to cut farm subsidies and medicare, and raise some social security taxes and fees for using federal land.

The American people are watching tonight. With all their heart and all their mind they want us to act on their behalf and they want us to act now," said House majority leader Richard Gephardt.

But Republicans warned that the president's plan relied too heavily on tax increases and not enough on spending cuts.

Disgruntled Republicans accused House Democratic leaders of strong-arm tactics, and used procedural manoeuvres to stall debate on the bills.

"You on the Democratic side have the votes to beat us down today, but this isn't the end of the fight. We have a long, long way to go," minority leader Robert Michel said.

Before voting on the budget, the House easily defeated two Republican budget plans calling for bigger spending cuts and fewer taxes, as well as a congressional black caucus proposal raising taxes and spending more than requested by Mr. Clinton.

The House also passed a \$16.2

billion short-term spending bill which the White House says will create 400,000 new jobs, although Republicans contend the number is far fewer.

Republicans condemned wasteful spending in the budget measure, including \$28 billion to help cover a shortfall in the District of Columbia budget and millions for a fish mapping project, computers and bathrooms in federal buildings.

"We have a new president at the head table and already he's asking Congress to pass the pork," Republican Rod Gramm said.

Mr. Gephardt said many of the Republicans' charges were groundless, adding none of the spending proposals were final and the White House would carefully review all initiatives.

The measure still faces a battle in the Senate where some lawmakers are promoting a plan to hold off the majority of new spending until Congress passes additional legislation.

After meeting with Mr. Clinton at the White House Thursday, Senate majority leader George Mitchell said he hoped the stimulus package would pass largely intact and said the Republicans ran a risk if they tried to stall a vote.

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 17/3/93	Tokyo Close 18/3/93
Sterling Pound	1.4526	1.4510
Deutsche Mark	1.6617	1.6623
Swiss Franc	1.5325	1.5310
French Franc	5.6485	5.6510
Japanese Yen	117.20	116.94
European Currency Unit	1.1670	1.1671

USD Per STD
European Opening to 18th 18.00 GMT

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.18	3.50
Sterling Pound	6.00	5.84	5.69	5.56
Deutsche Mark	8.31	7.68	7.51	6.62
Swiss Franc	5.18	5.00	4.62	4.44
French Franc	11.57	10.87	9.75	8.62
Japanese Yen	3.40	3.21	3.18	3.15
European Currency Unit	9.25	8.81	8.31	7.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.45	6.35	Silver	3.65	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930
Sterling Pound	1.0010	1.0060
Deutsche Mark	0.4152	0.4173
Swiss Franc	0.4509	0.4532
French Franc	0.1222	0.1228
Japanese Yen	0.5501	0.5531
Dutch Guilder	0.3697	0.3715
Swedish Krona	0.0884	0.0888
Italian Lira	0.0430	0.0432
Belgian Franc	0.02018	0.02028

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8000	1.8240
Lebanese Lira	0.0370	0.0420
Saudi Riyal	0.1838	0.1852
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2430
Qatari Riyal	0.1872	0.1883
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7640	1.7740
UAE Dirham	0.1872	0.1883
Greek Drachma	0.3040	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3750	1.3970

Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	16/3/1993 Close	17/3/1993 Close
AB-Share	193.33	192.91
Banking Sector	135.33	134.89
Insurance Sector	213.78	213.43
Industry Sector	275.82	273.71
Services Sector	252.56	250.14

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2420/25	Canadian dollar	1.6405/15
	1.6405/15	Deutsche marks	1.5082/92
	33.82/86	Dutch guilders	5.6000/50
	1588/1603	Belgian francs	116.10/15
	7.7400/500	French francs	6.3200/300
	6.9800/900	Italian lire	1.4850/60
	1.4850/60	Japanese yen	3331.20/331.70
One sterling	1.4850/60	Swedish crowns	
One ounce of gold	3331.20/331.70	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN BANK OFFICE: AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 445170 / 445171

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/03/1993 - 17/03/1993)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRICED OFFERING CLOSING
AMMAN BANK	320,963	131.250 131.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	140,488	6.770 6.770
CLARIO AMMAN BANK	69,407	26.000 27.100
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,486,467	20.000 21.200
AMMAN COMMERCIAL BANK	172,439	3.840 3.820
THE JORDANIAN BANK	108,387	3.770 3.770
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	262,783	2.370 2.370
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	34,896	3.290 3.400
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	37,071	4.070 4.120
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	15,363	3.240 3.270
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	702,586	2.840 2.810
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	52,380	5.800 5.700
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	32,346	5.400 5.400
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	187,827	1.730 1.730
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	9,945	3.370 3.370
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	30,462	2.650 2.650
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	418,470	2.890 2.890
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	6,433	3.300 3.300
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	56,432	3.180 3.180
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	317,637	2.820 2.820
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	2,661	2.400 2.400
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	9,900	5.500 5.500
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	3,933	3.380 3.380
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	187,827	1.730 1.730
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	9,900	5.500 5.500
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	7,033	1.050 1.050
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	1,760	2.810 2.810
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	14,925	2.380 2.380
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	121,667	4.400 4.400
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	88,492	1.730 1.730
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	56,316	6.800 6.800
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	9,463	1.350 1.350
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	7,237	1.430 1.430
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	41,461	1.530 1.530
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	1,990	16.500 16.500
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	425,741	2.330 2.330
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	37,763	24.810 25.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	97,273	2.360 2.360
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	1,760	2.810 2.810
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	261,648	4.600 4.700
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	129,794	10.200 10.200
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	34,767	3.620 3.620
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	76,332	5.920 6.000
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	37,763	24.810 25.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	240,920	6.450 6.460
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	97,435	2.530 2.540
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	42,661	2.900 2.900
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	47,038	4.500 4.500
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	14,938	2.160 2.160
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	15,916	23.100 23.500
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	70,373	3.270 3.270
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	199,826	3.750 3.750
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	12,476	0.740 0.770
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	66,216	31.200 31.000
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	210,407	3.200 3.200
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	184,412	12.700 13.000
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	109,724	1.010 1.010
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	3,125	1.400 1.400
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	44,291	1.890 1.890
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	41,533	8.770 8.770
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	415,086	5.930 5.930
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	142,719	1.030 1.030
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	222,804	4.110 4.110
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	1,363	5.100 5.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	66,486	3.210 3.210
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	112,463	14.250 14.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	20,945	1.200 1.200
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	56,774	4.430 4.430
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	102	4.070 4.070
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	514,367	8.100 8.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	234,227	4.100 4.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	349,892	4.150 4.170
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	119,718	1.100 1.100
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	94,411	1.000 1.000
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	94,400	5.200 5.400
GRAND TOTAL	11,829,433	

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/03/1993 - 17/03/1993)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRICED OFFERING CLOSING
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	41,407	0.740 0.770
AMMAN INVESTMENT & BROKERAGE	109,718	2.480 2.770
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT & BROKERAGE	119,718	1.100 1.100
AMMAN INVESTMENT	24,451	1.800 2.800
GRAND TOTAL	286,210	

FOR RENT

DELUXE FURNISHED FLAT (1st Floor)

The flat consists of two bedrooms, two baths, large kitchen, very spacious living room consisting of living, sitting and dining rooms and large veranda.

The deluxe flat is furnished/equipped with modern kitchen equipment, and colour TV.

The flat is on the first floor, with separate entrance, all services available: independent telephone, water supply, electricity and central heating independent.

Location in a very quiet area in Tla'a Al-Ali between Chen's Chinese restaurant and Mecca Str. behind Mohlaseb Supermarket, near Shoukeh Restaurant (House No. 11). Rent Yearly

For more information call please Tel. 813027 between (7 & 10) p.m. daily.

From 1 st of April 1993

Alitalia

flies three times weekly from AMMAN to ROME

WED - FRI - SUN

and to DUBAI on TUE

For reservation / schedule information, Please contact your travel Agent or ALITALIA Tel. 625203 - 636038

الخطايا

FOR SALE

Mercedes Cars - Duty Unpaid

1. Mercedes 200, model 90, Automatic, ABS, centrelock, elec. sunroof, electric right mirror, rear headrests. Colour: Dark blue.

Price JD 13,500

2. Mercedes 190E, 2.0, model 1989, system 90, ABS, centrelock, electric sunroof, aluminum wheels, colour: Black.

Price JD 11,500

Please call 812292

المنازل

LA MAISON

On the occasion of Mothers Day and Eid Al Fitr Feast La Maison announces a 10%-25% discount on all items that include: Astour Crystal Chandeliers, and kahan Khalili goods.

There will also be a clearance sale part of the items on display

Jabal Amman — near the Ministry of Tourism — We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are open on Fridays also.

Cinema

CONCORD Tel.: 677420

Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston

BODYGUARD

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:15, 10:30 p.m.

Free Car Parking

Cinema

PLAZA Tel.: 699238

Bruse Willis ... in

DIE HARD

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil & Hisham's

AHLAN THEATRE Tel.: 625155

New World Order

Plays continue daily at 9:00 p.m. except Saturdays and Sundays

Happy Feast

TODAY AT

Cinema

PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144

DAYS OF THUNDER

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571

Presents as of March 17, 1993 the political comedy play

Definitely Democracy (Demokratiyya Wa Nuss)

Zawwad Wild Awwad Party

AL BARAKEH

RENT A CAR

Tel: 687988

DEAR SON ? WOW ?

What a beautiful ring you got me for Mother's Day? Even I feel taller now !!

From: **Dajani Jewellers Amra Hotel.**

Adel & his mother

Yeltsin aide discounts military solution to crisis with parliament

MOSCOW (R) — A close aide of President Boris Yeltsin Friday discounted the possibility of a military solution to the power struggle between the Russian presidency and parliament.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko as saying the executive headed by Mr. Yeltsin had lost ground at last week's session of the supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

But he did not believe "in the possibility of a military solution to the political conflict between the executive and legislative branches," TASS quoted him as saying.

Some Yeltsin advisers have suggested the president should try to brush aside Congress and rule alone.

But this would involve at least the tacit support of the military as the legal grounds for such a move are unclear.

Armed Forces chiefs say they are determined to keep the military out of politics and obey the constitution.

Mr. Shumeiko also ruled out the possibility of early elections for both Congress and the presidency, one solution to the crisis favoured by many politicians.

Mr. Yeltsin's next move in his power struggle with parliament will be peaceful and within the democratic process, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev has told Britain.

Mr. Yeltsin is expected to announce measures in the next day or two which his press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, has said will be "very important for the destiny of Russia."

In a telephone conversation Thursday evening with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Mr. Kozyrev said Mr. Yeltsin would come up with constructive proposals that were peaceful in nature, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The Russian president was determined to keep things within the limits of the democratic process, Mr. Kozyrev was quoted as saying.

Mr. Kozyrev gave no further details, but British officials interpreted his remarks as meaning that Mr. Yeltsin had ruled out use of force in any bid to impose his will on parliament.

The British spokesman said Mr. Kozyrev conceded that Mr. Yeltsin faced a difficult task because of opposition from hardliners to his market-oriented economic reforms and his foreign policy of cooperation with the West.

But he said the Russian minister remained "quite upbeat" about Mr. Yeltsin's prospects.

The spokesman said Mr. Hurd told Mr. Kozyrev Britain was keen to support Mr. Yeltsin's economic programme and wanted arrangements for a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) ministers to discuss a fresh aid package.

Mr. Yeltsin has been "awakened" by the challenge to his leadership from the Russian Congress and has decided what steps to take in response, his spokesman said Thursday.

The spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, told a meeting of Moscow intellectuals that he could not say what decision Mr. Yeltsin had made, "but I am sure he has made it," according to the Interfax News Agency.

"I think a compromise or dialogue with the Congress is no longer possible," Mr. Kostikov was quoted as saying by the ITAR-TASS News Agency. "The president in fact has only... the people of Russia to talk to, and he will turn to them in the nearest days."

Meanwhile, the conservative chairman of Russia's parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, sidestepped jeering demonstrators to meet senior Ukrainian officials Friday and was due to hold talks with President Leonid Kravchuk.

"The president is ready for

such a meeting," one of Mr. Kravchuk's top advisers told Reuters. "This is perfectly normal between leaders of different states."

About 100 nationalist demonstrators whistled and shouted abuse at Mr. Khasbulatov as he entered parliament accompanied by the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, Ivan Plyushch.

Some protesters carried placards reading "down with the Russian empire" and Khasbulatov in power means the death of Ukraine."

Mr. Khasbulatov, touring former Soviet republics to promote his campaign for more parliamentary power, said on arrival in Kiev Thursday that he wanted to see Mr. Kravchuk.

Mr. Khasbulatov undertook the trip in his capacity as chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly grouping deputies many of the 10 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), no meeting with Mr. Kravchuk was originally scheduled.

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Residents of war-torn city of Sukhumi search debris for belongings after 21 hours of intense fighting and bombing raids ravaged the main city in the breakaway region of Abkhazia, killing at least

70 people. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze called for an urgent meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to discuss alleged fighting of Russian troops alongside separatist forces in Abkhazia (AFP photo)

Georgia criticises Russia, downs plane

TBILISI (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze accused Russia Friday of "unprecedented cynicism" over the Abkhazian conflict and said his forces had shot down a warplane believed to be Russian.

In a television interview from Sukhumi, capital of the separatist Black Sea region, Mr. Shevardnadze said he was heading for the scene of the incident to verify the information.

But according to preliminary reports, it was a Sukhoi SU-17 with Russian military markings and the pilot, who was killed, was a Russian major, he said.

The Russian Defence Ministry in Moscow said an SU-15 returning from a reconnaissance mission had disappeared but was unable to confirm it had been shot down. A spokesman said helicopters and navy ships were searching for the wreckage.

If the shooting down is confirmed, it is certain to exacerbate tensions between Russia and Georgia, former Soviet republics, which are already high over the Abkhazia issue.

In his interview, Mr. Shevardnadze angrily rejected charges made by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev who said Thursday the Georgian government was waging war against its

own people.

"It is unprecedented cynicism," Mr. Shevardnadze retorted Friday. "These are ravings which originated in Russian intelligence and were imposed on Grachev."

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Grachev as saying the Georgian Air Force had seven SU-25 painted in the colours of Russian Air Force and bearing Russian insignia.

"It is these planes which are carrying out both demonstration flights and the bombing of populated areas," Mr. Grachev said.

"A real war is being waged in Georgia by the government against its own people. The Georgian side is trying to smear the Russian Armed Forces to make up for its own errors."

Georgia's Defence Ministry also protested about Mr. Grachev's remarks. He had already angered Georgians last month by visiting Russian troops in former Soviet bases in Abkhazia without first requesting permission on even informing the Georgian government.

Georgia has accused Russia of stirring war in the Caucasus by supporting the separatists, although Mr. Shevardnadze says local commanders are responsible, and not President Boris Yeltsin.

But Mr. Grachev denied the charges and denounced Georgia for what he called "lies provocation."

The Georgian parliament appealed to the United Nations Thursday, saying: "The events of recent days in Abkhazia confirm that Russia is expanding the scope of its undeclared war against Georgia."

The separatists seized the whole of northwestern Abkhazia, bordering on Russia, last year after Georgia sent in troops to crush the local parliament's bid for greater autonomy. Hundreds of people have been killed.

Fighting in the volatile region flared last week after months of uneasy calm when "bells attacked Sukhumi. But the Georgian army said Thursday it had halted the offensive."

Georgian military sources said 35 soldiers and so civilians in Sukhumi had been killed and more than 60 wounded. They said at least 300 Abkhazians had been killed or wounded.

Russian paratroopers in the region, a hangover from the former Soviet Union, proclaimed their neutrality but vowed to hit back if attacked.

They threatened Thursday to shoot down any planes which attacked their base.

Indian police investigate drug smugglers links in Bombay blasts

BOMBAY (AP) — Police investigating bombings that killed more than 300 people here are focusing on a wealthy family they believe was involved in smuggling gold and drugs.

On Friday, a small bomb hidden in a motor scooter exploded in the crowded Khetwadi district of central Bombay. It caused no casualties and little damage, but it further disrupted life in this still tense city, Press Trust of India reported.

Bombay Police Commissioner Amarjeet Singh Samra said two men arrested Thursday had been paid by the Memon family to park the explosive laden vehicles that devastated two crowded market places a week ago.

Mr. Samra said India is asking other countries for help in tracing members of the Memon family, who left for Dubai around the time of the March 12 explosions.

"The case is as good as solved. Now we know what happened and who did it. It is a case of getting them," he said at a news conference Thursday.

Police have traced some of the cars and motor scooters used in the bombing to the Memons, who own several restaurants and hotels and who police say were involved in smuggling gold and narcotics.

But police admit they don't know if they were the planners or just the executioners of the bomb plot. They also have offered no convincing motive.

Some reports say the Memons, who are Muslim, lost property in the city's Hindu Muslim riots in January, and may have sought vengeance against this predominantly Hindu nation by striking at its financial nerve centre.

In New Delhi, Interior Minister S.B. Chavan has told parliament that India will ask Dubai to extradite the Memons. The two countries have no extradition treaty.

The Statesman newspaper quoted unnamed police sources as saying the Memon brothers had fled from Dubai to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and were seeking asylum in Pakistan, India's hostile neighbour.

Mr. Samra said the two men arrested Thursday told interrogators that they were each paid \$160 to handle the vehicles, without knowing that they were packed with explosives.

"They are not great conspirators," he said.

Thursday's arrests brought to nine the number of people detained so far in the 13 blasts that ripped through skyscrapers, apartment buildings and hotels over a two hour period. More than 1,100 people were wounded and 317 were killed.

Meanwhile, police in Calcutta recovered 20 crudely made bombs while clearing the rubble from an explosion that killed 86 people Wednesday, according to Press Trust of India.

A worker clearing the debris was crushed under bricks and was hospitalized in critical condition Friday morning, police said.

Investigators have found no line between the bombings in Bombay and the explosion in Calcutta. They were trying to see if the Calcutta blast was caused by a bomb or by stored explosives that accidentally blew up.

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